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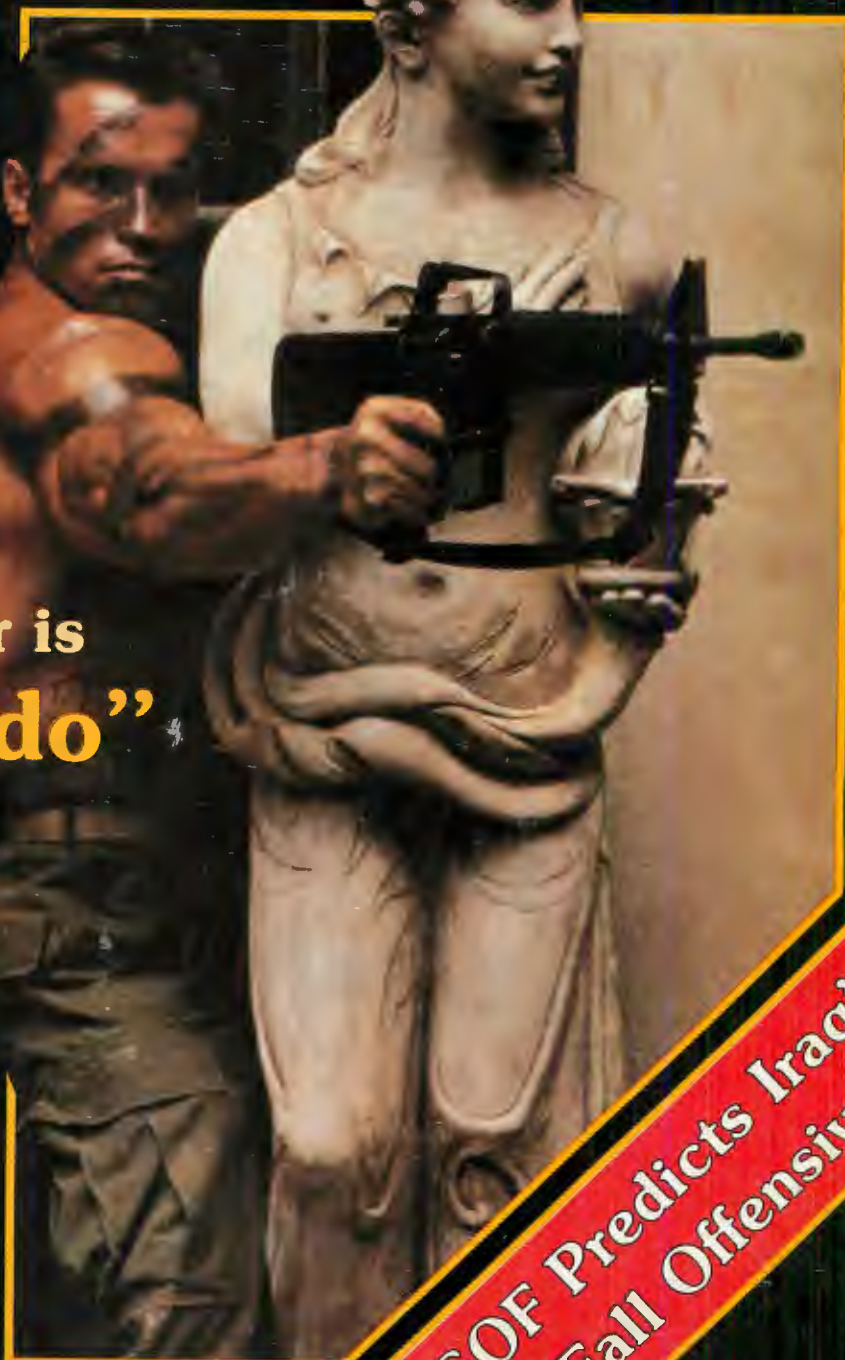
The Journal of Professional Soldiers

Ranger
Desert Drop

Kokalis Tests
Korean
Rifles

Schwarzenegger is
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PRE-WINTER SALE**



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Commando Sweater - Commercially made - patterned after the GI ones, these are commercially made in easy care 100% acrylic. Although they are copies, they are constructed surprisingly true to the all wool ones, complete with sleeve and shoulder patches. **Choose Between: Olive Drab (OD) Green or Black. Specify Size: S, M, L, XL \$21.75 each.**

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 Acorn Hat Cord (as shown) **\$6.00/each.**
 (Specify color: silver, gold metallic, black/gold, metallic, yellow, red or light blue).

**** EVERYTHING IN THIS AD ON SALE!!**
Deduct 10% from All Merchandise (except Strobe Light which is 25% Off) When Ordering!!

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USAF Flight Jacket— These flight jackets are issued to military fliers and are designated Type MA1 for Intermediate Cold. (This means that it is the medium weight jacket, designed for comfort in a temperature zone of about 20° to 55°F). Look for the military designation, sizes and stock numbers inside the left pocket. The outer shell and lining are 100% nylon making the jacket completely wind and waterproof. The interlining is 100% polyester fiberfill for the highest degree of warmth per ounce. This jacket is reversible; outside in your choice of either sage green or blue and the inside is survival orange. It features: two hip pockets outside as well as inside, sewn pen and pencil holders plus zippered easy access storage pocket in the left sleeve. This a snappy, convenient, warm, fully functional jacket and it happens to be the latest fashion trend.

Specify:
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New for 1985/86 Season!! Long Lengths in Flight Jackets - Add \$4.50 per jacket.

US Navy Cold Weather Deck Jackets—
Type A2—These jackets feature windproof cuff and hip closures plus a full zipper front with button overclosure. The Olive Drab (OD) green shell is 50% cotton/50% nylon. This blend allows the jacket to be water-repellent (not waterproof) while at the same time it has the softness of the natural fibre. It is lined with double face pile in both the body and sleeves. It sports two hip pockets and a breast pocket with snap closure. The Deck Jacket is cut slightly below the waist so large or tall persons will find it quite comfortable.
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

FREEDOM in Africa has been an SOF cause from the first issue, and it remains one of my greatest personal interests. Africa is too big, too strategic and holds the fates of too many humans for any racist, xenophobe or Pollyanna liberal to say it doesn't matter. Africa is going to be more important in the next ten years than it was in the last ten. And it all hangs on South Africa.

But South Africa has a race problem. And I am forced — for once — to agree with Jimmy "Blue-light-special-on-Panama" Carter that it's about as bad as that of the American South in the '50s.

I have traveled extensively in South Africa in the last decade, most recently during this past summer. Carter's comparison is accurate to this extent: Those two black populations are generally healthier, better-fed, longer-lived, more profitably employed and possessed of more personal and political freedom than their brothers who often suffer under less-enlightened governments. Where my opinion departs from Carter's is his implication that blacks are worse off in South Africa or were more abused in the Southern United States than they are in Uganda, Ethiopia, Zaire or Zimbabwe. Carter has been listening to lies like those from the Zimbabwean government.

They claim that living and working conditions for women have improved and infant mortality has dropped since the black takeover. Such gains occur only with improvement in the general economy. And if you think the Zimbabwean economy is improving along with

their mythical living conditions, just call your bank and ask them if they're interested in buying Zimbabwean dollars. Seven years ago one Rhodesian dollar was worth close to US\$2. In a recent SOF telephone survey of banks' foreign exchange desks we found the official value of the Zimbabwean dollar pegged at \$0.64 but nobody would pay more than \$0.30, and most banks wouldn't buy Zimbabwean dollars at any price.

Full civil rights are denied South African blacks, it's true. Yet while activists and their pet press flacks rage about Afrikaaner injustices, they usually fail to mention such black African human rights viola-

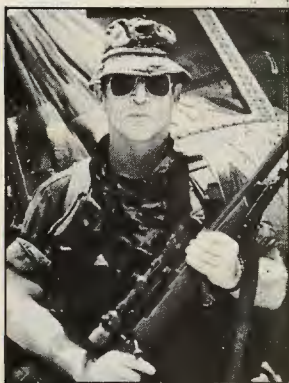
tions as the traditional and active market in black slaves — sold to black owners — in Mauritania.

South African blacks certainly suffer poorer health than whites. Understandably, few of the dedicated critics observe that sleeping sickness, schistosomiasis and malnutrition afflict

South African blacks at a fraction of the incidence of any black African nation.

Yes, life is bad for most South African blacks. Comparatively, most blacks live much worse than most whites, but their lot is not worse than that of nearly anyone living in civil-war-torn Uganda. Blacks live near South African white urban areas because there are more jobs, more public services, better police protection, greater political stability and a higher standard of living. Unfortunately such proximity shows blacks what they're really missing

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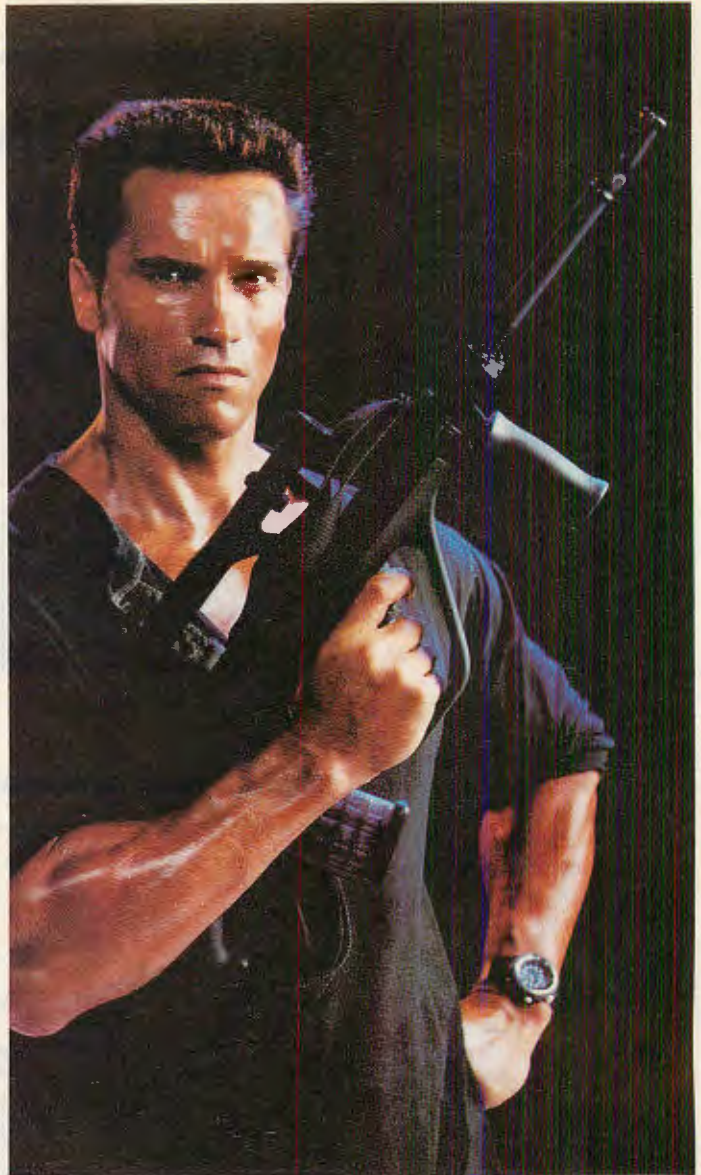
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COVER: Don't buy your ticket to *Commando* thinking you're going to see realistic combat footage. Then again, nobody expects realism from one-man-army movies. But if you want good fantasy and good fights Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest assault on theaters will be your film for the end of '85. Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

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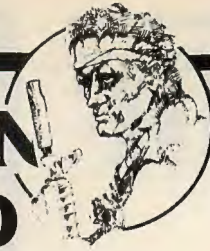
CONGRESS CATCHES ON...

Soldier of Fortune was pleased to learn that Congress has caught on to the gross injustice of having Afghanistan as a "most favored nation" of U.S. commerce (see "Most Favored Nation?" in September SOF Bulletin Board). The Soviet-puppet regime in Kabul and the U.S. have about \$12 million annually in trade in cigarettes, computers, aircraft and automotive parts and petroleum products. The communist government gets preferential trade tariff exemptions under an agreement existing prior to the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

"Most Favored Nation?" was reprinted in the editorial section of *The Washington Times* and apparently caught the attention of the powers that be. U.S. Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) has introduced legislation to repeal Afghanistan's most favored nation status. Referred to the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on International Trade, the bill appears to have good chances of passage. Its 29 co-sponsors represent a broad coalition of both liberal and conservative from both parties, including U.S. Sens. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), John Glenn (D-Ohio), Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Pete Wilson (R-Calif.).

Not only would the Humphrey bill repeal Afghanistan's most favored nation trading status, but it would impose against the illegitimate Kabul regime certain specified trade sanctions. We salute Sen. Humphrey and his colleagues for their effort to correct this longstanding injustice. And we urge SOF readers to write or call their senators (Sen. John Doe, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202)224-3121) urging them to support the bill, which is designated S. 925.

BULLETIN BOARD



McColl at SFA Convention.



Sadler in Central America.

WELCOME ABOARD, BARRY SADLER...

Soldier of Fortune is pleased to announce that Barry Sadler, a former member of Special Forces and a Vietnam veteran, is joining the magazine staff as a contributing editor in martial arts. Sadler, who spends much of his time now in Central America on various private-sector projects, is best known to the public as a recording artist ("Ballad of the Green Berets") and the author of several mercenary novels. So, readers, keep your eyes peeled for his copy.

NEW ORLEANS RENDEZVOUS...

The annual convention of the Special Forces Association had among its speakers in New Orleans two representatives from *Soldier of Fortune*, Tom Reisinger and Alex McColl, both former Green Berets. McColl, SOF's Director of Special Projects, presented a slide show and discussed the magazine's activities in Central America. Reisinger, president of Refugee Relief International, Inc., gave a history of SOF's involvement in the POW/MIA issue, including remarks on the Liberty City Project in Laos (see August SOF).

While on the subject of relief projects, McColl asked that Bulletin Board emphasize to readers what is needed and what is *not* needed in the way of equipment for the El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund.

WE DO NEED: (All sizes medium and small) combat and jungle boots, boot socks, cammie and OD fatigue tops and bottoms, caps and narrow-brimmed "boonie" hats, ponchos and liners, field jackets, pistol belts, web gear suspenders, M14 20-round and M16 30-round ammo pouches, plastic canteens and canteen covers, serviceable rucksacks without frames, K-BAR or equivalent field knives, weapons-cleaning gear, 30-round M16 magazines, military compasses, GI flashlights and binoculars

WE DO NOT NEED: Firearms, ammunition, explosives, helmets, helmet liners, helmet covers, machetes, civilian clothes, entrenching tools and E-tool covers, bandoleers and stripper clips, 20-round M16 magazines, carbine magazines or pouches.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND CASH DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE when mailed to: Refugee Relief International, SOF Warehouse, 5721 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303.

BE SURE to include with equipment donations a packing list itemizing the contents, your name and address and whether you would like your name published in the magazine as a contributor.

If it fits the criteria mentioned above, send your old but still usable military gear to: El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund, SOF Warehouse, 5721 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303.

SEE TOM AND JANE RUN...

Tom Hayden was so stung by SOF's comments about him and his wife and fellow-traitor, Jane Fonda, (See Bulletin Board and Flak in the August SOF) that Hayden had his staff director call the magazine and ask for an apology. Fat chance.

Anyway, Hayden's staff director claims that Hayden is *not* helping collect money to build a memorial shrine to those who protested against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The spokesman also denied that Hayden has endorsed such an idea.

To refresh Hayden's memory and that of his staff, in a widely published interview Hayden was asked to comment on the 10th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam and the Vietnam veterans' memorial in Washington. He said, "The anti-war movement deserves monuments as well... There was no less a sense of honor or patriotism among those of us who opposed the war out of a sense of what this country is all about."

As a founder of the 1960s Marxist revolutionary group, Students for a Democratic Society, member of the Chicago Seven and along with Jane an eager dupe of communist propagandists in Hanoi, Hayden is finding that his purulent past has infected his political future.

The Wall Street Journal says Hayden's political career as a member of the California Assembly is in "a startling decline... [His] legislative output has been virtually zero. Ironically, his presence in the state Assembly mostly benefits the Republicans, who regularly... stir up their troops by raising the specter of a left-wing Hayden takeover... Hayden's fellow-Democrats... are openly disdainful, muttering that the only reason he sits in the Assembly is that... Jane Fonda spent nearly \$2 million in 1982 to get him elected."

Every time you see any product, television show or film with either Jane Fonda or Tom Hayden included, note the name of the advertising sponsors or outlet. In the case of television shows, people should write the advertisers and say they are *never* going to buy that product again if the company continues to put money in the pockets of such Benedict Arnolds.

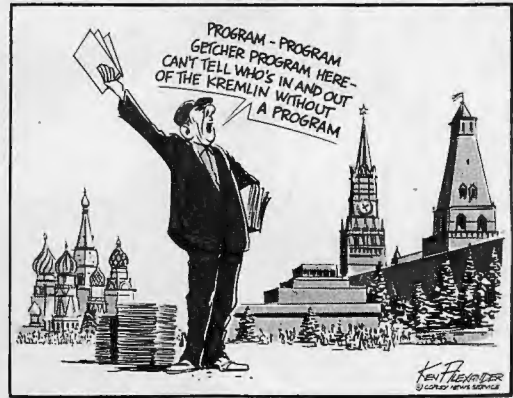
AUSTRIA'S ARTILLERY SHELL GAME...

SOF sources in Austria tell the magazine that 211 GH N-45 howitzers being sold by the neutral European country to Jordan actually are destined for delivery to Iraq. Austria sold 200 of the 155mm field pieces to Jordan in 1983, one source said, but few have turned up in King Hussein's military inventory. Interestingly enough, though, Iraq now has at least 150 GH N-45s, according to *The Military Balance*, published by the Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Austrian law forbids the sale of military equipment to belligerent nations. If the real end-user for the GH N-45s is not Jordan, but Iraq — which is at war with Iran (see story, page 62) — then the sale would be illegal, certainly a potential embarrassment for the Austrian government. Austria's Novicum factory reportedly completes about 20 of the howitzers per month. Austria is scheduled to complete its GH N-45 contract with Jordan in early 1986.

Ironically, Austria is forbidden by international treaty from using the GH N-45 in its own military forces because of the exceptionally long range of the 155mm weapon. The GH N-45 has a range of about 31,000 meters, out to 39,000 meters with specially modified base-bleed ammunition.

On a related front, sources in South Africa tell SOF that ARMSCOR, the state-controlled defense manufacturing conglomerate, has accepted a \$1 billion contract to deliver military arms and equipment to Iraq. All this may soon mean decisive action in a bloody war of attrition that has long been stalemated. Be sure to see David Segal's predictions concerning the Iran-Iraq war, beginning on p. 62.



MOSCOW'S MILITARY MUSICAL CHAIRS...

Moscow's game of military musical chairs continues with an ongoing top-level military shakeup. Next in line for replacement, according to unconfirmed reports, is none other than the Soviet Defense Minister himself, Marshal Sergei Sokolov. Believed to have been the mastermind of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, Sokolov became defense minister on 22 December 1984, after the death of Dmitri Ustinov.

Sokolov's political mentor is Grigoriy Romanov, who is rumored to have sponsored Sokolov for the job as defense minister. With friends like Romanov, Sokolov certainly doesn't need enemies. Romanov — who was considered an arch-rival of Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev — was quietly dropped from the Politburo in May after undergoing treatment for alcoholism. Sokolov's involvement with the Afghanistan invasion further aggravates his relationship with Gorbachev, since some sources indicate he is looking for a way out of Russia's Afghan military quagmire. But don't get too optimistic about the prospects for a Soviet withdrawal, since such a move could mean using *more* military force against the Afghan Freedom Fighters before it's all over.

Other new faces in old places include General Alexi Lizichev, a former commander in chief of Soviet forces in East Germany, who replaced Marshal Alexi Yepishev in July as Soviet Armed Forces Main Political Directorate Chief. Soviet Rocket Forces Chief Marshal Vladimir Tolubko has also been replaced, but SOF was unable to learn the name of his successor. Another July surprise was the departure of Marshal Victor Kulikov, Commander in Chief of Warsaw Pact Forces, who sources indicate was dumped in favor of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, a former Chief of the General Staff who himself was dumped from his last job in September 1984.

In case readers have lost count or don't have a scorecard for the Stavka of the Soviet Supreme High Command, nine of its 11 members from a year ago either are no longer serving or have been shuffled into different jobs. — Reported by David Segal

Continued on page 100



SEE THEM LAUGH, PLAY AND TICKLE BABIES WHILE THEY PLAN MASS MURDER.

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COMMIE HOLIDAY...

Sirs:

Fancy a holiday with a difference? According to an item in the London Daily Telegraph, tourists to the PRC are being offered a unique excursion. For £40 (around \$60) you can join the People's Liberation Army as a recruit for three days. The fee covers food and board as well as the traditional green fatigue uniform. Training involves "learning the Chinese version of the goose step," arms drills and the "...chance to fire Chinese weapons with live ammunition."

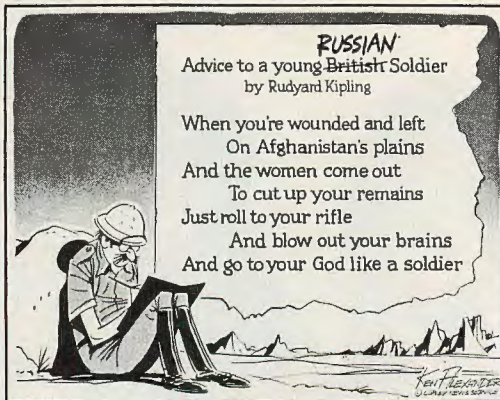
If this doesn't appeal to you, the British Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign is organizing a work brigade to pick coffee for the nationalized state complex "Eduardo Contreras." Their magazine reported that two Chileans, aged 11 and 14, worked in the coffee fields after leaving England. They were given a basket and a gun and sent out to pick coffee. The pay for this revolutionary activity was nothing. In fact, any Briton wishing to pick coffee is expected to pay £650 to £750 (\$900 to \$1100).

Name and address withheld

Misguided citizens of Western democracies have supported and financed communism from its birth. Communist countries have never successfully organized their economies, but rarely have they needed such direct aid.



FLAK



KOKALIS' RECOMMENDATIONS...

Sirs:

The August '85 report, "M60: The Great GPMG SNAFU" has prompted me again to seek Peter Kokalis' expertise. I imagine many readers like myself currently use Break-Free CLP. Kokalis' revelation "that guns maintained with this product are exhibiting excessive wear" is, of course, cause for concern for all of us who lubricate our guns with this product. Although I've always tried to apply Break-Free per the instructions, the two-hour curing time for maximum lubrication did bother me. What lubricant or lubricants does he recommend for semi- and full-auto firearms? I buy SOF to read Kokalis and I'm sure his devoted readers deserve elaboration on the subject.

Craig Knoll
Tonopah, Nevada

I am not satisfied with the performance record of any teflon-based lubricant on the market. I can recommend PARR All Weather Weapons Lube which has no melting point and significantly reduces wear. It's available from Atlantic Research Marketing Systems, Dept. SOF, 230 W. Center St., West Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02379. You should be able to obtain LITH-EASE or any similar white lithium lubricant at any automotive store. Both products are in the form of a grease and should be applied to the moving parts and bearing surfaces on a machine gun with something like an acid brush (rolled tin handle with tightly crimped bristles). If you want something a little less viscous, LSA Weapons Oil is still excellent.

For protection from rust on non-moving parts and exterior surfaces I use G-96 lubricant in the aerosol can which can be purchased directly from the manufacturer, Jet-Aer Corp., Dept. SOF, 100 Sixth Ave., Paterson, New Jersey 07524.

— PGK

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BOULDER...

Sirs:

"Soldier of Fortune is based in Boulder, Colorado, one of the most liberal communities in the state. Brown calls it 'The People's Republic of Boulder.'" — *Human Events*, 10 August 1985.

If Boulder is a people's republic, Brown should see Burlington, Vermont. Burlington has a socialist mayor who moved up here from The Bronx. He has recently traveled to Nicaragua to show his solidarity with the Sandinistas and announced that he "admired their form of government." I read SOF as sort of the *Wall Street Journal* for the military, but also as a way to be a better informed investor for the international market.

J. Traver Underwood
Account Executive
E.F. Hutton
Burlington, Vermont

PILOT OF FORTUNE...

Sirs:

SOF is the magazine I had always hoped to see. I am a French citizen and a "POF" — pilot of fortune. For the last 15 years I have been renting my services in black Africa and I have had the chance to meet every kind of mercenary. I always work alone and that's my way of surviving. At 55 years of age I have officially logged 22,000 hours in my book but there's a lot unrecorded.

Your magazine is the best and most accurate soldier's magazine around. But one thing is missing — the air people. Articles on the mercenary flyers, pilots and mechanics are few in number. There aren't many of us around, but we do exist. We just don't advertise our job much.

Capt. Frankie L'Amour
Puerto Rico

You're right, air mercs have been big in the third world for years. Take SOF's aviation editor, Dana Drenkowski, for example. As a pilot, Drenkowski has an ongoing interest in those who have flown for other countries in this century's past wars. His articles include "Chopper Jobs" (SOF — November 1979) and "Flight of the White Eagles" (SOF — August and September 1980).

Why is the Kremlin afraid of this book?

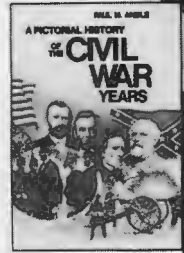
President Reagan calls it "the perfect yarn." The White House staff, the Pentagon and the CIA are reading it. The Soviet Embassy in Washington just bought copies. Why is it the hottest book in Washington and Moscow? Find out now by joining America's #1 Military Book Club...and get your copy FREE!



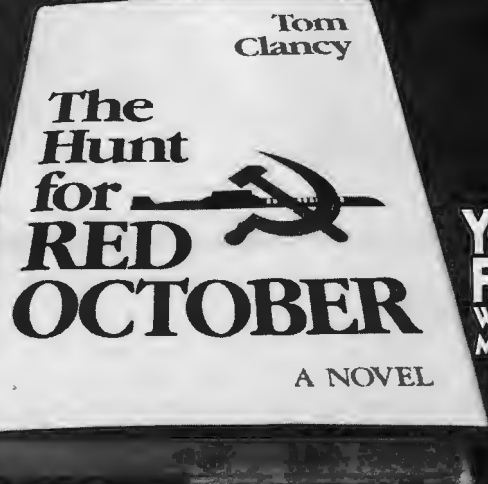
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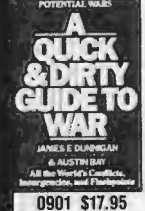
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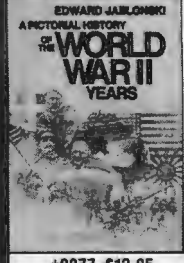
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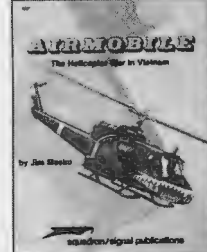


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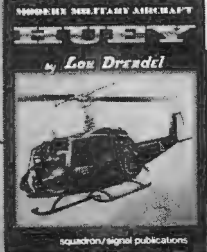


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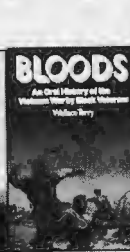
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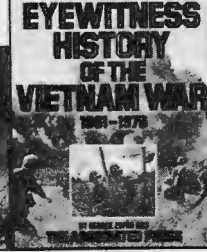
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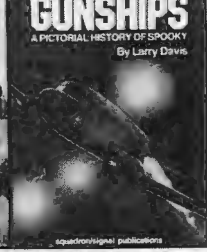
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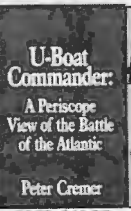
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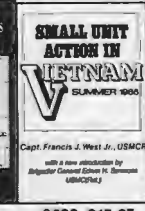
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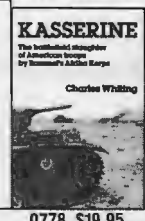
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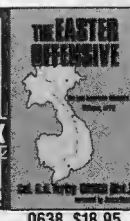
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SETTLING THE SUKHOI QUESTION...

Sirs:

You were right the first time. The photo in your February 1985 issue ("Panjsher VII") is, in fact, a Sukhoi-17 Fitter. Mr. Jakubowicz' (May '85 FLAK) letter describes the Su-7 Fitter A, not the SU-17 Fitter C. It's hard to tell the two apart but the plane pictured is identifiable by the ridge along its spine (SU-7 has a bubble canopy) and its more elaborate nose radar probe.

The confusion is natural, as the two types have the same NATO codename. Fitter C is essentially a Fitter A with a movable outermost wing section. It's the only operational swing-wing aircraft directly derived from a previous swept-wing type — a good example of Soviet-style evolutionary weapons development. This approach simplifies logistics and saves money.

John Tillman
Athena, Oregon

Thanks to sharp-eyed readers like you, we have finally gotten squared away on the Fitter A/Fitter C situation.

INEQUITIES DOWN UNDER...

Sirs:

I am writing to tell you of the stupid, leftist policy of the Australian officials. By offering money, services or equipment to the Afghan freedom fighters fund I am breaking a law — that of training, equipping or supporting foreign troops. I can be jailed or heavily fined. But I can be an outspoken militant supporter of the communist party and nothing happens.

David Howattson
New South Wales,
Australia



PARA KNIFE...

Sirs:

I was drawn to your article on the survival knife written by Leroy Thompson in the August Anniversary Issue ("Para Knife"). It is an excellent description and write-up of a superb product that is available from the UK. And for all those readers who have been inquiring about the knife, we've got some in stock for £21.50. The knife is exactly as photographed — Item No. 1136 Model No. 1278214.

Richard Farncombe
Dept. SOF
Survival Aids Ltd.
Morland, Penrith,
Cumbria, CA10 3AZ
UK



DETERMINED DONORS...

Sirs:

I was recently discharged from the Navy. When I was sent to turn my gear in I noticed a pile of slightly used boots about 10 feet high. I have heard that these boots are sent to Federal prisons by the Navy. But couldn't these boots be better used by the freedom fighters in Central America?

David Slay
Rome, Georgia

ON BATTLE BLADES...

Sirs:

You are to be congratulated on your selection of Bill Bagwell as knife editor. His style of reporting is in the best "tell it like it is, let the chips fall where they may" SOF tradition. It's this kind of writing that made your magazine what it is. If he offends people sometimes it's not because he has an ax to grind. Rather, it is because he sincerely wants to educate people about what does and doesn't work in the cutlery field.

Jon Gilmore
Owensville, Missouri

"Keening an Edge" (June '85, *Battle Blades* column) is the best article on knife sharpening I have ever read. The technique shown has proven to be, in my experience, the most efficient yet. It puts an edge on a knife that is almost too sharp to believe. Bill Bagwell is to be commended for his selflessness. In this age of technological complexity, it is gratifying to find those who can write clearly on subjects simple and complex.

Bryan Wortman
Bozeman, Montana

The best technical writing is an art and we are certainly pleased with Bill Bagwell's professional writing style.

MERCENARY MALICE...

Sirs:

The article "Double Cross in the Congo" (SOF — August 1985) was an unusual interview with Schramme, but the story was self-serving to him and he also downplays Mike Hoare as one "who was only fighting for money." Having known Mike well and continually furnishing air support to his 5 Commando, I can assure you that money was not his sole motive. Further, 5 Commando was the only mercenary group that was in the forefront in the fighting which was concluded at Stanleyville, Paulis, Bunia and the closing of the Sudanese border. Frankly, I never knew that Schramme's 10

Commando existed and Bob Denard's 6 Commando was practically immobile during the Simba Rebellion.

Having served in the Congo as an air adviser during the rebellion ("Operation Dragon Rouge," SOF, July 1981) and privy to many official resources, it is clear that Schramme was attempting to diminish his badly tarnished image brought about by the ill-advised "Mercenary's Revolt" at Stanleyville. Schramme's actions doomed the important role of organized mercenary participation in deterring future communist aggressions in Africa.

Bud Moessmer
St. Louis, Missouri

We'll have to agree that "Double Cross in the Congo" was rather uncritical: Most jailhouse interviews are. And his assertion that Mike Hoare was in the Congo strictly for money is not a new charge. But in recognizing the animosity that developed among mercenary leaders working in the Congo, we decided to let Schramme's comment stand. Furthermore, we have an interest in and dedication to presenting the primary documents of the study of war in the Third World. Schramme's version of his story is — despite its obvious problems — an important primary document.

You'll be interested to note that Colonel Hoare will personally address that very point in his three-part biography, "Mad Mike's Own Story," featured in the November, December '85 and January '86 issues of SOF.

DEDICATED JOURNALISM...

Sirs:

Nine months ago, the terms "mercenary" and "soldier of fortune" evoked images less than complimentary in my mind. Recently, I came across a copy of *Soldier of Fortune* and I have received a pretty good education since then. I have been deeply impressed by the knowledge and professional skill displayed in your fine publication. The reporting is straight, honest and to the point. Most of all, I appreciate your dedication to the cause of liberty.

Gary Van Dolzer
Kaysville, Utah

Continued on page 100

Why listen in black and white



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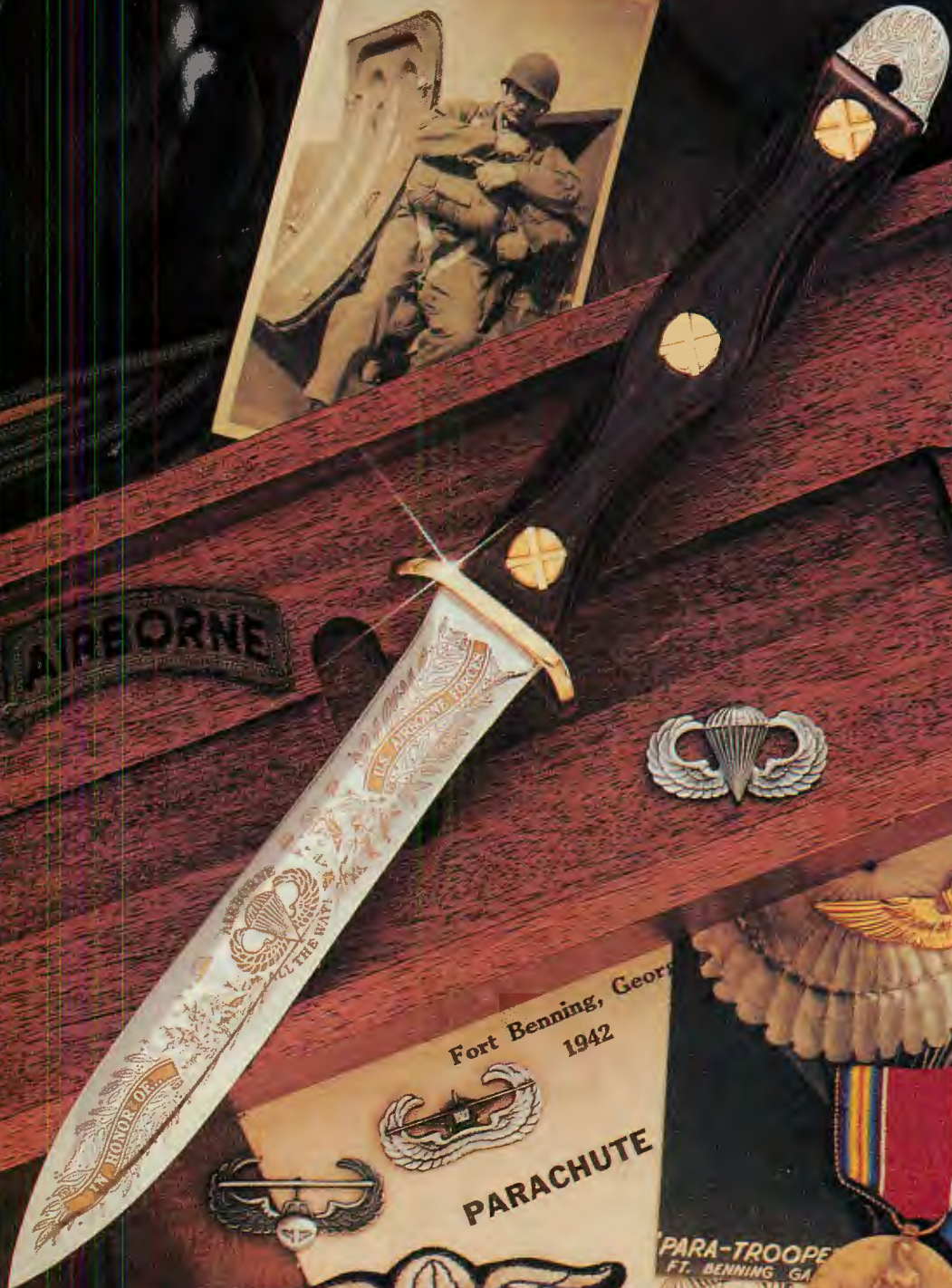
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Serial No. 1 to Ft. Benning

The first knife in this series—now available—pays tribute to U.S. Airborne Forces. This is a strictly limited edition of only 2500. Serial No. 1 is being presented to the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning—where the Airborne was founded.

The Airborne Commemorative Fighting Knife is a deluxe, hand finished Ek Commando Knife, Model No. 4. Since 1941, Ek knives have proven themselves in the hands of American military men on the battlefields of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. They are one of the—if not the—leading private-purchase military fighting knives in American history.

The Airborne Commemorative Fighting Knife is bench made by the Ek Commando Knife Company. Their motto is "Made in America, by Americans, for Americans"—and they mean it!

Most Ek Commando Knives were available only to active-duty military personnel—which is why they are better known among veterans than among civilian collectors. This marks the first time a special, presentation-grade Ek Commando Fighting Knife has ever been announced to the general arms-collecting public. But only 2500 of the Airborne Commemoratives will be made.

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A finely detailed Airborne drop zone combat scene is deeply etched along the full length of the 6 5/8" blade, which is made of special Ek high-carbon stainless surgical steel. To highlight this pattern, the etched areas are plated with pure 24-karat gold.

The jump wings—the badge of honor of America's "sky soldiers" and Airborne-qualified personnel of other service branches—with the motto, "Airborne All The Way!" are proudly gold etched in the center. Even the extended butt is elaborately gold etched with the laurel leaf motif of victory.

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When you reserve the Airborne Commemorative Fighting Knife, you are also guaranteed first option, without obligation, to reserve subsequent knives in "The American Elite Forces Fighting Knife Collection" one at a time in the months ahead. This way you can systematically acquire a complete set with matching serial numbers, on a convenient basis. These knives will honor U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Navy SEAL/UDT, U.S. Marine Recon and U.S.A.F. Air Special Operations. They will be different models and variants of famous Ek military fighting knives, with different grip materials and blade combat scenes.

The Airborne Commemorative Fighting Knife is shown with the optional display case. This is genuine solid mahogany routed to perfectly hold and display your knife. A slid-

ing plexiglass lid protects the knife from dust and unauthorized handling. The case, which measures 14" x 5" x 1 1/2", can be easily wall mounted with the two brackets provided.

Whether or not you or a member of your family served in an elite force unit, your ownership and display of this knife will show your patriotic pride in our military and in the Americans who have defended our country in the past and who stand ready, today, to fight, if called.

How To Reserve

To place your reservation, you may call (a toll free number is available), use the reservation on this page or personally visit our headquarters. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or return within one month for a full refund. There are no shipping charges. For an additional \$15 we will personalize your knife by engraving your name, rank, and serial number on the blade reverse. If you wish Airborne, Air Assault, Glider, Rigger, or USN/USMC jump wings etched on the blade reverse, just add \$10.

When you place your reservation you will also be made a Member of The American Historical Foundation, and receive special information concerning the care and collecting of military arms and advance notice of all Foundation military projects. This is available exclusively through the Foundation.

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IT was one of those incredibly dark, dry, clean-smelling African nights. The thick dark air that wrapped around us in the bush was hardly touched by the distant pinpricks of light in a sky that looked as far away as Missouri. We were a standing patrol as an OP a few hundred meters from a defensive position, and my men were under the strongest warnings about light and noise discipline. But one green troop whispered, "My Gawd, Sarge, look at the shooting stars!"

"That's AK tracer. Shut your mouth."

The private had seen flyers from a punch-up a couple of miles away. There's something fierce about burning things, and tracer's no different from any other fire. The problem with it is that people spray it around with *emotional* abandon, because it makes sparks. But if you're a pro, if you're disciplined, tracer is one of the most useful tools in your military bag of tricks. You've just got to use it right.

But first, what is tracer? As the name implies, it's a bullet that allows the shooter to *trace* the trajectory of his fire, even when it's too dark to see anything but the trace. Tracer burns because the base is filled with a compound — usually magnesium — that ignites at about 10 meters from the muzzle (but I've fired trace that ignited at 100!) and burns brightly and continuously for another 400 to 1,100 meters. It depends on the caliber and the manufacturer. Soviet green 7.62 ComBloc seems to ignite at the muzzle, while most Western trace is red, and has a delay to avoid using the beginning trace as an effective point of reference.

So, what is this little Roman candle good for? First, you can correct for bullet strike. Next, you can indicate targets. And finally, tracer has a negative effect on the morale of poorly trained troops.

Tracer's primary task — and the task it was designed for — was to trace the trajectory of machine-gun fire, especially at longer ranges. Since machine guns have always fired in bursts, it's hard to range and aim them at great distances without a bullet you can see. And that's what tracer does best. That's the way it was on Europe's big battlefields.

But tracer has lived on into the little bush wars of the end of the 20th century, because you can point the way for other marksmen, even at short distances. The fire control command could be something like, "watch my tracer!" Then, you fire a few rounds of trace into the target area, and instruct the men to fire at the indicated area.

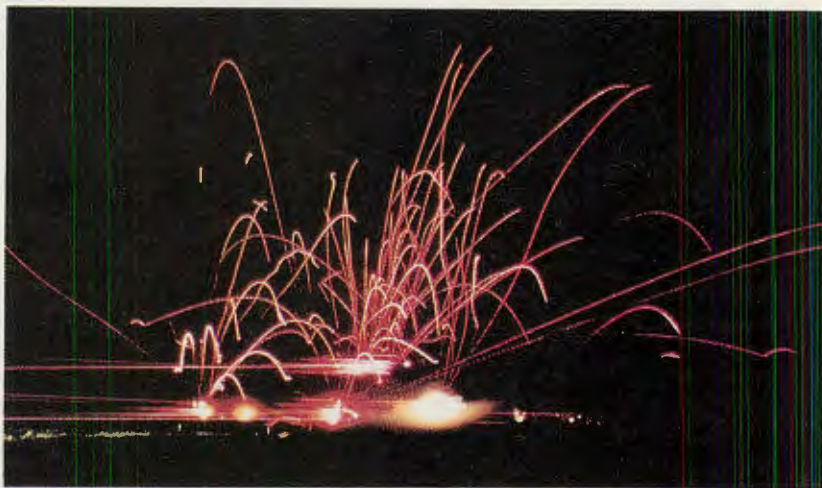
Trace as a target indicator is one of my favorite field fire-command tools. In my experience, individual troops



COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Jack Thompson

Tracers: the Good, the Bad and the Deadly



Tracer looks great in the night sky. It can also be very effective in a firefight if used correctly. Photo: Robert H. Hall

and their units respond more rapidly and more accurately to direction by tracer than by verbal command or pointing. Some leaders don't like to fill their magazines with tracer, and sometimes, you just run out. So, don't forget that your machine-gunner will *always* have tracer and the commander can order up target-indicator tracer fire from the gunner.

Visibility of tracer has one more good effect . . . on the enemy. Inexperienced troops will be sufficiently unsettled by the noise of fire that seeing the *direction* of that fire may break them, or just make them keep their heads down so they can only fire into the air.

One time, after our counterfire had broken a guerrilla ambush, we had captured one of our attackers. He was cowering under a bush. When we interrogated him after we picked him up, he said he had run when he saw the red bullets smashing into the dirt around him.

Then if tracer is so great, why not use it for everything? Because it does have disadvantages.

It's really hard to see your own trace through your sights. If you're in a stable firing position, looking through battle sights, you just about won't ever see the trace from one round. To use trace from an assault rifle often means the operator is a hoser and violates every principal of good fire control.

Then, the one really *scary* thing about tracer is that it is visible from the target. Tracer burn isn't as bright when you're being fired on as it is when you're shooting it, but you can see it coming at you. That may break an inexperienced soldier, but a trained troop is going to sight to the origin of that trace and cut loose. And if he's firing along the axis of the trajectory, that's trouble. Furthermore, if the compound burns from the muzzle, an enemy at a great angle to the line of fire can follow the trace back to the firer's position.

One overcast day somewhere in the southern half of Africa, a devotee of Comrade Marx decided to stuff a mag with bright green AK tracer. Firing on full auto, his first five-round burst caught the attention of a couple of my soldiers. His second five-round burst caught *my* attention. Then, incredibly, his third burst came from the same

Continued on page 96



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I WAS THERE

by C.C. Coffman

By the Book: Combat Common Sense

THE 23 October 1983 kamikaze truck-bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut was a tragic example of the unnecessary jeopardy our troops were put in because of political considerations and decisions. Unfortunately, that kind of thinking on the part of our civilian leaders is nothing new.

In Vietnam, our troops were often placed in situations where they couldn't defend themselves immediately. In 1966, security patrols around the Marine base at Chu Lai and Combined Action Platoon (CAP) patrols were under orders to go out with chambers clear, bolts to the rear and safeties on. A patrol following those orders could find itself in deep trouble — especially if it ran into any VC. Of course, a patrol leader can change his orders once he leaves the perimeter and that became SOP with me.

During the six months I spent in the Republic of Vietnam as a Marine junior NCO, I ran at least 75 night patrols. Most of the time I was under "bolts to the rear" orders. Why, I don't know. Maybe someone was afraid that a bunch of trigger-happy young Marines would go around shooting civilians if we didn't take time to think about what we were doing.

Normally I altered my patrol orders, changing the exact route and departure and arrival times. Of course, I always made sure I was ready to return fire immediately. And as long as I coordinated with the other patrol leaders in the area, that was enough.

But the one time I followed my orders to the letter convinced me never to do so again.

My CAP platoon leader had read the riot act to the patrol leaders about the importance of following orders. We were drilled repeatedly not to fire unless fired upon. We weren't even allowed to fire at an unidentified person we knew was armed.

My men argued with me, but tonight I would run the patrol by the book.

The moon was bright that evening. Part of the route called for us to walk along the edge of a wooded area, through a forest and then out into a clearing. Ordinarily I would take my patrol inside the trees, and not so ex-

posed to an ambush. And I would never go through a clearing. But if that's the way they wanted it, that's the way we were going to do it. I even made sure my men had the chambers of their M14s clear, bolts to the rear and safeties on.

Brunner was in front of me on the point. Eggy, my automatic rifleman, was third, and Jackson brought up the rear. Walking in the open under a bright moon with the forest only a few meters to our left was bizarre and frightening, but I figured someone must have known what he was doing when he drew up those orders. My men were feeling even shakier than I was.

About halfway through the patrol, we reached the cover of the trees and picked our way through until we reached the clearing. Brunner stopped and looked back at me, hoping I'd tell him to go around the clearing, but I stuck with the orders and signaled him to go straight ahead.

"You're crazy," he mouthed at me.

I signaled him forward again.

It wasn't a large clearing, maybe 50 meters long and 30 wide. We were in the middle of it when we heard a noise in the brush to our left. All four of us spun in that direction and froze with our M14s leveled at the sound.

My throat was dry and my mouth felt like someone had just crammed it full of cotton.

I managed to swallow and croak, "Ai do?!" (Who's there?) Then I smoothly released my safety.

Suddenly, Jackson's bolt slammed home as a scrawny Vietnamese pig broke from the trees and darted between Eggy and me. We all twisted around with our rifles pointing at it, jerking on our triggers. Nothing happened.

I looked down at my rifle and saw the open receiver. I had forgotten that the bolt was to the rear.

"Shit, I forgot my safety was on," Jackson yelled from behind. Eggy and Brunner had forgotten both their safeties and bolts. We were lucky we had only been ambushed by a pig.

That did it for me. "Load and unlock. That's it for following orders on this patrol." ❌

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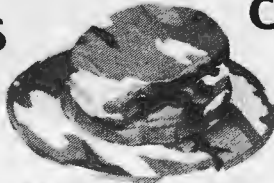


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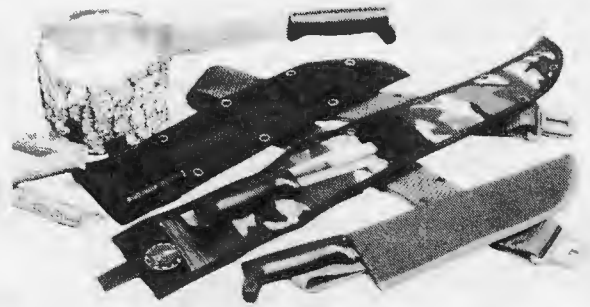
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THE Tippmann Arms miniature Browning machine gun makes a great cocktail party conversation piece, in gun circles, that is. It also shoots — full-auto. Collectors have been attracted to miniature firearms for centuries. There was a surge of interest in Lilliputian weaponry in the United States during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. These tiny cased Paterson Colts and Walker Dragoons sell for megabucks today. About ten years ago miniature replicas of the Thompson M1921 and M1A1 sub-machine guns in caliber .25 ACP were briefly marketed, but few were sold and most are now locked away in private collections.

Enter Dennis Tippmann, whose handsome half-scales are intended for both collectors and shooters. Tippmann manufactures three models of John Browning's famous series. They can be had either as Title II full-auto guns or semiautomatic-only. The M1919A4 air-cooled machine gun and the M1917 water-cooled model are chambered for caliber .22 LR. The M1917 isn't actually liquid cooled and is equipped (incorrectly) with the same M2-type tripod as the M1919A4. A new Model .50 HB model in caliber .22 Winchester Magnum with M3-type tripod is now available. This miniature Ma Deuce really turns me on, but unfortunately it was not in production when I placed my order for our test and evaluation. It's just as well, I suppose, as .22 Win. Mag ammo is almost three times as expensive as .22 LR — an important consideration when they come out the muzzle at 750 per minute.

An M1919A6 was originally planned as well. But, the birds in the BATF aviary ruled the semiautomatic version to be a National Firearms Act-controlled weapon as with its removable bipod and buttstock it would be a rifle with a barrel length less than 16 inches! Since the other three semiautomatic models are considered to be pistols, however, the BATF has required their pintles to be permanent fixtures on the receivers. Are they less concealable that way?

I finally chose the venerable M1919A4 model. Our test specimen is a Title II rattle gun. This will set you back \$160 more than the semiauto model because the Title II versions have more complex double sear mechanisms. The suggested retail prices are \$1,425 for the M1919A4, \$1,995 for the M1917 and \$1,895 for the Model .50 HB.

Each Tippmann gun comes packed in a solid-oak, military-style chest with green felt lining, blued hinges and leather straps. Two miniature metal ammo cans and 100-rd. plastic belts are included. The ammo can's latch is



FULL AUTO

by Peter G. Kokalis

Miniature Machine Guns



Tippmann Arms' miniature Browning machine gun may be the perfect gift for the gun collector who has everything. Photo: Peter Kokalis

not quite to scale. Cloth belts are now available and a sample of the cotton belt was sent to me, but it would not function through the gun. New cloth belts have been designed and are said to operate correctly. A small operator's manual has been printed in the style of a TM.

Overall length of the Tippmann M1919A4 is 19.5 inches and weight is 10 lbs. The 11-inch barrel cannot be removed from the ventilated jacket or receiver. All parts are finished black oxide except the feed lever, slide, pawls, bolt group and trigger, which are left in the white. Several high-nickel-content components (such as the bottom plate, top cover and cover latch) on my specimen were pulled too soon from a bluing tank held at too low a temperature and are plum colored.

The side plates are attached to the bottom plate by Allen-head screws rather than rivets. Threaded shafts on the T&E mechanism were not cleaned properly after finishing and continued to bleed bluing salts until I dismantled them completely and scrubbed them clean.

The front sight is a non-adjustable

unprotected blade which folds back. It is fixed to the receiver by an Allen-head screw which loosened after several hundred rounds were fired. The open-notch folding rear sight has no markings, but is adjustable for windage and elevation. It resembles the original in overall configuration and when folded down, an open-notch battle sight pops into view.

At 4.5 lbs., the tripod is a fairly close half-scale of the M2. But the tripod's latch spring is too weak and should be replaced with a stronger one. The T&E mechanism, although it has no mil markings, works admirably, traversing and elevating in close duplication of the original. The pintle bolt and nut which fit through the receiver's front mounting hole are of the Ace Hardware variety. They have been black-oxidized, but still detract from the gun's smart and attractive appearance. They should be fabricated to scale.

Also, the trigger is larger than half-scale, yet in this instance this modification is a very proper condensation to human engineering. Most miniature firearms were created for petting and respectful adoration alone. But, like a Lionel train set, the Tippmann M1919A4 is intended to be a functioning adult toy. Don't knock it. I remember clearly a T-shirt I encountered at the last SOF convention. Emblazoned

over a melange of speedboats, fast cars, motorcycles and machine guns was the motto, "He Who Dies With The Most Toys, Wins."

Tippmann guns operate by means of unlocked pure blowback and fire from the closed-bolt position. Feeding is from the left side. With the weapon loaded and cocked, the action works as follows.

After the trigger is pressed, the trigger bar disengages the sear and permits the spring-loaded firing pin to strike the cartridge rim. As the bullet moves down the barrel, counterrecoil drives the bolt group rearward. The Browning-type extractor draws a round from the belt at the same time the T-slot in the bolt face extracts the empty case. The extractor stud, riding in the left-side plate's cam groove, is forced downward, moving the fresh round down through the T-slot.

As the bolt group travels rearward, a stud on the feed lever (mounted in the top cover) moves to the right in the bolt's cam groove, forcing the attached feed slide to the left. The feed pawl glides over the next cartridge in the belt (which is held in place by a holding pawl on the feed tray). The recoil and firing-pin springs are compressed during the bolt's backward movement.

When the bolt moves forward, the extractor stud positions the live round in line with the chamber, using it also to eject the empty case out the bottom of the receiver. The feed lever's stud is now pivoted to the left, forcing the feed slide and pawl to the right along with the next cartridge. As the motion ends, the cartridge is held between the cartridge stops and the feedway. The next round is pulled over the belt-holding pawl, which rises behind it. The extractor moves up, over and then down onto this round waiting in the belt. This sequence will continue as long as the trigger is held back and ammunition remains in the belt.

To disassemble these guns, first retract the cover latch and lift the top cover, remove the belt, jack the bolt rearward and remove any live round in the T-slot. When the top cover is lifted, the cover latch will move forward and the back-plate group can be pulled up and out of its slots in the side plates. The cover latch should be re-designed so that it must be moved forward under spring tension in order to free the back plate. As it stands now, when you lift the top cover to load, the back plate is no longer retained and jarring the pistol grip will move it upward preventing you from pulling back the cover latch to close the top cover.

Hold the inner spring guide plate when pulling up the back plate to prevent it from jumping out of the receiver

Continued on page 107



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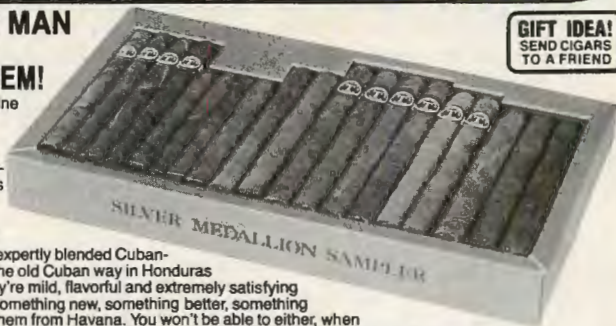
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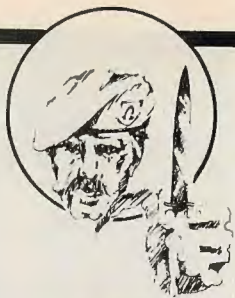
STRAIGHT carbon steel, stainless steel or Damascus steel — the choice is yours. But remember that the steel in the blade of your knife is the single most important factor in determining performance capabilities. Different steels give differing performance characteristics, and many fashionable knife steels are poor choices for use in a cutting implement. In fact, the finest knife steel of all frequently makes a third-rate blade at best.

Today's knives are usually made of one of three categories of steel. The simplest steel from a metallurgical standpoint is what is commonly called a straight carbon steel. (Actually, in this day and time there is no commercial steel that is a true straight carbon steel with no other alloying element.) What we are referring to here are steels such as 1040, 1060 and 1095. They are simple and straightforward in their makeup, and when properly utilized are extremely strong and shock resistant and cut like blue blazes. Their superior cutting qualities and high levels of strength make them an obvious and excellent choice for a combat or survival knife. The only shortcoming of these steels is that they will tarnish with use and rust if neglected. The fact that they will rust if not properly cared for has caused many people to overlook their use and search elsewhere for a knife steel — but in so doing they have sacrificed a lot of cutting and strength for a little fashion and convenience. That is not the sort of trade that I am willing to make relative to an item that I may stake my life on.

The stainless steels are the second category in which we are interested. These are steels such as 440C, 154CM, A2, D2, and F6. These steels were all developed for specific industrial applications, and *not* for use in hand-held cutlery. Their current popularity stems from a classic series of cases of bungling and manipulation of the public that would make the propaganda minister of a Marxist state eligible for promotion.

Take 440C, for example. The stuff does not cut well at any usable level of hardness, and is prone to brittleness at higher Rockwell levels. When it is hard enough to hold a decent edge, it is so abrasion resistant that it is virtually impossible to sharpen on a hand-held stone. What this means is that your knife made of 440C is either not going to hold an edge, or if it does, it will not be as strong as it should be and you probably won't be able to resharpen it.

If 440C is such a poor choice as a knife steel, how did it become so popular? There are two reasons, and both of them are that 440C is popular because it is shiny. 440C is the so-called "surgical stainless" steel. People think that



BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Steel Yourself



Bagwell's hammer shapes a Damascus steel combat blade from a billet he made. Photo: W.B. Guthrie

because the stuff is used to make cutting implements for surgery that it has to be a superior steel for cutting anything. Nothing could be further from the truth. 440C is used for surgical instruments because its highly stainless nature causes bureaucrats to believe that it is easier to sterilize or is "more sterile" — whatever that means — than straight carbon steel. Many states have legislation requiring that surgery be performed with stainless-steel implements for reasons of sanitation.

The other reason that 440C is so popular is that the knife-collecting elite of this country use knives as art objects, and not as tools or weapons. For the last decade many collectors have demanded that their knives be absolutely tarnish resistant — no fingerprints on the display, you know — and custom knifemakers have been quick to give this minority the lion's share of their attention. As a result, cutting performance has suffered to the extent that the new generation of custom knifemakers truly do not know the difference between a knife that *really* cuts and one that doesn't.

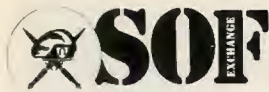
The sudden and great popularity of 154CM as a knife steel in the mid- to late 1970s is a classic case of a gullible public buying a bill of goods lock, stock and barrel. 154CM is really a poor choice of steel from the user's standpoint. It is extremely abrasion resistant

and a perfect bitch to sharpen. It also has an extremely discomforting tendency to chip when thin sections are subjected to stress, like the edge of your knife when chopping a tree limb. The cutting performance of this steel is not first rate and the resulting edge has a slick quality that requires pressure to cause it to cut. In spite of these disadvantages to the user, 154CM has some real advantages when viewed from the perspective of the *maker*. One of these is that the steel possesses very good red hardness, or the ability to hold its temper at elevated temperatures. Another is that it is not overly prone to warpage during heat treatments. A third is that it is a "glamour" steel and thus adds image to the knife.

The advantages to the maker add up quickly. The superior red hardness of the steel means that the knifemaker can grind the steel after it has been heat-treated without fear that he will upset the temper. He can also grind it very thin in a short amount of time . . . resulting in speed in production. The fact that 154CM resists warpage in heat treatments means that blades can be ground thinner before heat-treat — a savings of time — and the scrap rate due to warpage is virtually nil. The real kicker, though, is that 154CM achieved glamour status because of its industrial application and not because of its knife application.

Think back to the early 1970s, and you will recall that America had not yet had a gasoline crisis, most Americans still thought that the whole world loved them, and that we as a nation were the brightest people on earth. After all, we had just begun to fly the largest commercial airliner in the world, the Boeing 747. Why, we had even designed and built new engines just to power this monument to our national greatness, and the steel used to make the turbine blades in this marvel was something called 154CM. Just what the connection is between the metallurgical requirements of turbine blades in a jet engine and a hand-held knife has always been a little difficult for me to grasp. I guess the public wanted to

Continued on page 98



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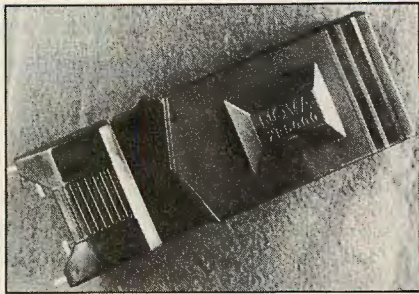
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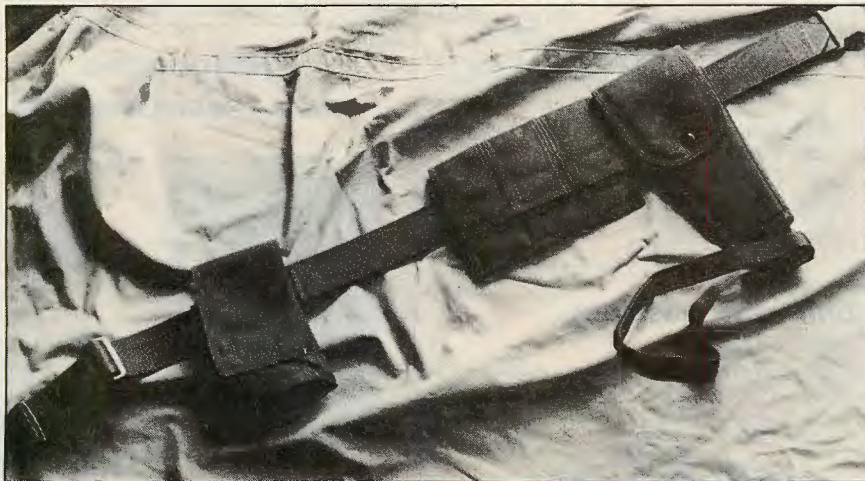
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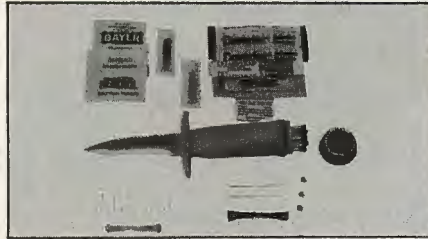
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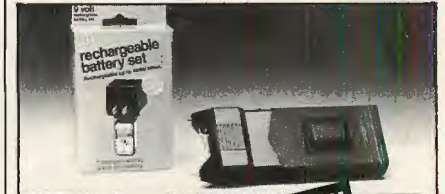
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- SMALL CALIBER AMMUNITION IDENTIFICATION GUIDE. DST-1180G-514-81 Vol. 1 **\$6.95**

This manual was put together by the Department of Defense Intelligence Agency. It is the best guide there is for identifying military cartridges up to 15mm, as to cartridge designation, country of manufacture, and to a large extent, functional bullet type. A must for every serious military cartridge collector.

SOF's Military Small Arms Editor Peter G. Kokalis is nearly as well-known for his grasp of bibliography as for his passion for machine guns. This month, SOF presents Mr. Machine-gun's latest additions to his library.

A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO TOKAREV PISTOLS. By John Remling. Collector's Services, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 43, Buchanan, NY 10511. 1984. 81 pp. Black-and-white photos and illustrations. \$11.95.

FROM WWII through Vietnam, many U.S. veterans returned home with Tokarev pistols. Though no longer the Soviet service pistol, the Tokarev design is still manufactured in ComBloc countries. Provided at last with a proper reference, it's time to pull that Type 54 from the footlocker.

John Remling begins his short, useful volume with a biographical sketch of Feodor Vasilyevitch Tokarev, followed by a history of the pistol's development. Disassembly instructions and drawings from a Soviet manual are translated and reproduced, and there is a fascinating section comparing the salient components of the TT-33 with those of the Colt M1911A1.

The author also describes the Russian TT-30, TT-33, TT-R-3 (.22 LR trainer) and TT-R-4 (target version); Chinese Types 51, 54 and "sanitized" M20; Yugoslav Models 57 and 65/70 (9mm Parabellum); Hungarian Models 48 and Tokagypt 58 (9mm Parabellum); and Polish and Korean Tokarevs. Not mentioned is a strange subvariant that has just recently surfaced: Russian TT-33s completely refinished to commercial standards with phosphated magazine floorplates of the early extended type, fitted with brand-new plastic grip panels (properly marked "CCCP") that have peculiar brass grip rivets. Where did they come from? Polish arsenal reworks moving down the Canadian underground railroad network? I don't know.

The line drawings are excellent as are most of the photographs. But a moderately useful bibliography could have been replaced by a more necessary chapter on holsters. Wisely, no pricing guide is included, since this quickly becomes dated and only encourages novices to seek collector-grade prices for their rusted sewer-pipes. This book is recommended to all those with more than a passing fancy in the "Tok."

THE BROOMHANDLE PISTOL 1896-1936. By Wayne R. Erickson and Charles E. Pate. E and P Enterprises, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2116, San Antonio, TX 78297.

IN REVIEW



1985. 298 pp. Color and black-and-white photos. \$53.95 post-paid.

BY every accepted measure of firearms aesthetics, the Broomhandle is ugly. Mauser's monster emanates evil that attracts every creature of Original Sin who has ever held one in his hands. It's even popular with those sneering, celluloid villains from Hollywood and Vine who still clutch Mauser Model 1896 pistols on the silver screen.

Erickson and Pate have assembled a treatise on the Broomhandle with the tender care of advanced collectors. Printed on the highest quality glossy stock, the photographs are, with few exceptions, magnificent. Fourteen color plates are breathtaking views of exotica from factory-engraved Bolos to an early Conehammer fired by emperor Kaiser Wilhelm II. The text is concise and explicit, and the authors never once intrude on the visual impact created by their art.

The early history is traced from German tests in 1896 through the U.S. trials of 1902. Major foreign contracts are discussed, as well as the early 10-shot pistols and the standard models such as the Small Rings, 1920 Reworks, Bolos and the Model 1932 Schnellfeuer machine pistol. Chapters on rarities, foreign copies and accessories are also included. Rounding out this best-to-date treatment on the "Broomie" are sections on disassembly procedures, BATF guidelines and a

useful collectors' guide and scarcity chart with value multipliers. This is recommended to all — from Chinese warlords to collectors at every level.

THE SPRINGFIELD 1903 RIFLE — The illustrated, documented story of the design, development, and production of all the models, appendages, and accessories. By Lt. Col. William S. Brophy, USAR, Ret. Stackpole Books, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105. 1985. 616 pp. Black-and-white photos and illustrations. \$49.95.

EVERYTHING you ever wanted to know about the 1903 Springfield rifle and a few thousand other things you never knew existed. Brophy has spent more than half a century shooting, studying and collecting the '03 and its accessories. He stands unchallenged as the world's leading authority on this subject and his book is an encyclopedic masterpiece.

Part I concerns the Model 1903 rifle itself, including pre-Model 1903 prototypes, test results, design changes, production records, method of operation and maintenance. Variations of the Model 1903 are covered in Part II: the Air Service, Bannerman, Bushmaster, Ersatz '03, Line-throwing, Mark I, 1903A3, 1903A4, National Match, NRA-NBA Sporting, Periscope, factory cut-away, Rock Island Arsenal model, Theodore Roosevelt, R.F. Sedgley, Lend Lease and Military

Aid rifles. There are also brief sections on the so-called Winchester "Sniper" Rifle, a .22 Hornet conversion, the Numrich Arms .22 LR conversion unit, other subcaliber devices, fencing equipment for bayonet training, drill and dummy rifles, commercial sports, pressure, velocity and accuracy devices, heavy-barreled target rifles and the experimental cavalry carbine.

Along the way, hundreds of debatable contentions are resolved and quite a bit of erroneous folklore is trampled into the dust. For example, numerous so-called "advanced" collectors have insisted that the 25-round extended magazine was designed for WWI balloonists and "balloon-busting." Brophy conclusively demonstrates this accessory was first developed for the periscope trench rifle and only later adapted to the Air Service rifle which was mounted aboard airplanes — not observation balloons. Brophy's pronouncements cannot be taken lightly.

Part III traces the development of the .22 LR rifles from the Springfield Model 1870 conversions through the M2 (a refinement of the M1922M1 gallery practice rifle).

The 224 pages of Part IV are devoted to such accessories as arms racks, aiming devices, bayonets, cartridge belts, cleaning rods, grenade launchers, rifle scabbards and covers, periscopes, sound suppressors, slings, metallic and telescopic sights, periscopes, and tools. There's even some mind-boggling trivia like the bizarre Sub-Target Rifle Machine, which could, by means of mirrors, be used for target practice in small rooms. The final portion deals with manufacturing procedures, ordnance inspection, repair and gauges.

There are more than 1,500 photographs of rifles, close-up details, components and accessories. Especially fascinating are the historical photographs. The bibliography is superb, the index adequate and the text astounding — inconceivable minutiae concerning the '03 system is uncovered and described, yet without a trace of stodginess. This is a major publishing event in the field of military small arms and most certainly the '03 Springfield Bible for all time.

BERETTA AUTOMATIC PISTOL — The Collector's and Shooter's Comprehensive Guide. By J.B. Wood. Stackpole Books, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105. 1985. 192 pp. Illustrations and 125 black-and-white photos. \$19.95.

Continued on page 94



U.S. ARMY SNIPER TEAM

WEAPON: XM-21

"ONE SHOT-ONE KILL" was the reputation gained by the U.S. Army snipers in Vietnam using an accurized M-14 with an ART scope. First round kills at 800 yards were common. This excellent painting is the latest efforts by *MAX CRACE*, co-author of *Visions of Vietnam*. The first 250 prints are a *LIMITED EDITION*, 24"x17½", signed and numbered on heavy stock, museum quality paper. Also available in open edition, on poster paper and suitable for framing.

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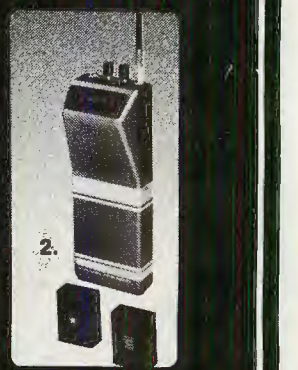
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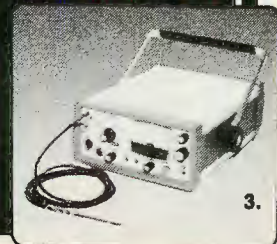
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COMMANDO

Schwarzenegger Fires 'Em Up Again

by Robert K. Brown

Muscular movie merc: Schwarzenegger strikes a pose that has to make most real soldiers grimace. Would you attach your grenades to web gear like this?



GUNS and muscles are big draws in today's merc movie market. And if bangs and biceps keep on pulling audiences, Arnold Schwarzenegger may retire on monosyllables and monumental looks. *Commando* is one more musclebound step in that direction.

"Arnie's Army" used to be a golfer's fans. Nowadays the phrase would be better applied to the hordes of stuntmen holding short-term contracts to be "killed" within seconds of meeting Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger mangled at least 84 men by my tally. (Production staff at Twentieth Century Fox argued that I counted some of the dead twice in the last battle. I could've been wrong. They fell pretty thick.)

Men died by submachine gun, assault rifle, medium machine gun, bare hands, hand grenades, HE, axe, pitchfork, anti-tank rocket, Claymore, decapitation by thrown circular-saw blade and skewering by three-inch steam-pipe. One bad guy ran completely out of luck when he was impaled on the leg of a bedside table.

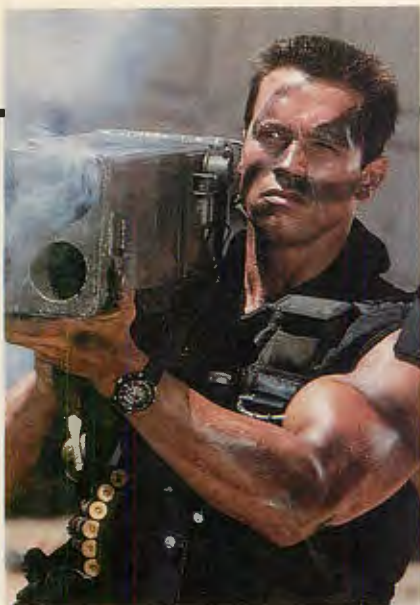
Now, don't get the wrong idea. Col. John Matrix (Arnold's *nom de guerre*) is no Ishmael: Other characters do live through the Schwarzenegger experience. But he might remind you a bit of Moby Dick, and the list of survivors is *real* short.

Matrix's daughter Jenny, Gen. Franklin Kirby (his CO from his secret-assignment days) and Cindy (Matrix's romantic interest whom he kidnaped at the beginning of the movie) all live to see final credits. Also, superficial morality cloaks most of the carnage and most of the small number of seemingly innocent bystanders are left unscathed. But everybody else dies.

Quite a spectacle.

Great fights and special effects give this film texture, substance and direction. That's good, since neither script nor plot offers much in the way of intellectual stimulation. Basically, Matrix's daughter is kidnaped by villains who want him to do a one-man-army act on a small Third World country. He escapes from the plane that's supposed to take him to the mythical banana republic, and he's got the time it will take the plane to reach Val Verde in which to kill *all* the bad guys and rescue his daughter.

Our Hulk-like hero sets the tone for *Commando* by following Sully (David Patrick Kelly) — a bad guy, but the most engaging character — into a shopping mall. In his attempt to get his man, Schwarzenegger



Schwarzenegger shoulders a rocket launcher as he prepares to deal death and destruction to the bad guys.

goes through 25 rent-a-cops like a daiquiri blender does strawberries. Great scenes.

Despite the destruction, the bad guy gets away. This seems unlikely, considering Arnold's movie-enhanced ability to mangle man or machine. But Sully's escape contributes suspense and emotional density to what is otherwise a strictly fists-and-firearms film. It takes *time* to get really scared. By the time Sully has watched this man jump from the landing gear of an airborne jetliner, ruin a private security company's workman's comp plan, and then chandelier-swing from the upper reaches of a tiered shopping mall to the top of an exposed-track elevator, Sully is probably scared. Sully didn't need to be clean-and-jerked and thrown across the mall while *inside* a telephone booth. Any ordinary human would have killed himself to save time, trouble and pain.

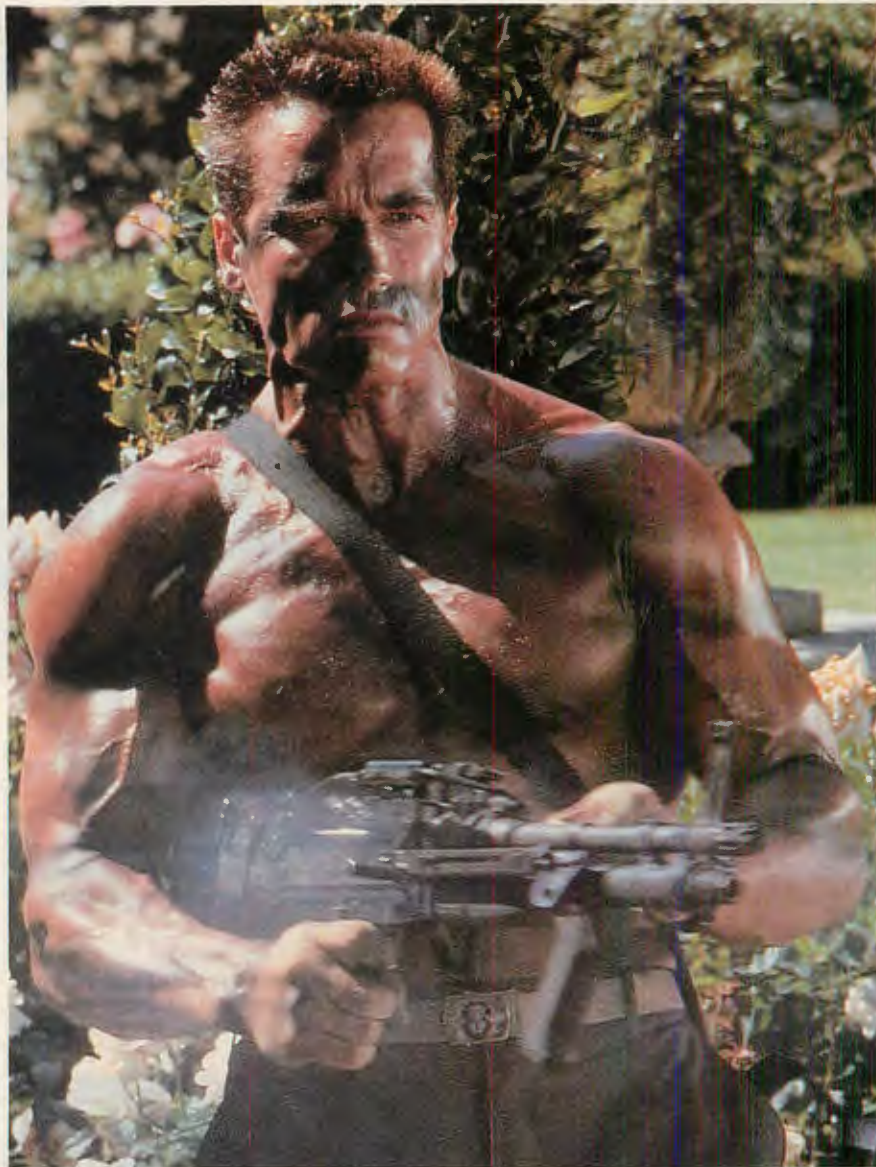
But Sully keeps on running, and he keeps on contributing to the film. Early on, Schwarzenegger says "You're a funny guy, Sully. That's why I'm going to kill you last." And the audience ought to appreciate this gesture toward what little human value the film has. But Sully isn't the only actor in the movie.

An old war buddy named Bennett (played by Australian Vernon Wells) is Matrix's antagonist. Wells was last seen by U.S. moviegoers in *Road Warrior*. Remember the heavily muscled, mohawk-haircut, snarling psychopath tied to the lead assault vehicle by a studded leather collar? That was Vernon. And he's *at least* as bad in *Commando*. Fortunately, the part of Bennett is deftly handled to avoid defusing the final confrontation. Matrix resolves his casual frustrations by beating cops, killing Val Verdean soldiers and finally fixing Sully.

Matrix: Remember when I said I'd kill you last?

Sully: Yeah.

Matrix: I lied.



In a pose reminiscent of Rambo, Schwarzenegger sprays the area with an M60E3.

I have no desire to spoil the surprises this film offers, but that disembodied dialogue ought to give you a peek into what's different about this updated sword-and-sandal movie: Arnold has a sense of humor.

Ever since word leaked that Arnold was marrying Maria Shriver, even his most dedicated fans began to fear that Schwarzenegger was a closet intellectual. Although no other hard confirmation is available, viewers won't avoid recognizing a finely honed sense of irony in the human tank's delivery. Director Mark Lester (*Firestarter*) wields this new-found talent with professional restraint.

Schwarzenegger's good acting even extends to fights. Remember when the fur-clad Ursus (Samson Burke) threw styrofoam logs against maniples of legionaries in his epic, *Alone Against Rome*? One slow Italian extra

always fell after the others and the bogus tree-trunk would bounce off his papier-mâché shield. One-man-army fights are usually hard to stage, but Arnold's genuine athletic prowess — combined with clever doubling by Bennie Dobbins and fight choreography by *Kung Fu* coach Mike Vendrell — gives us what we want: clean, fast, real-looking fights.

Of course I don't mean *realistic*. Little of this could have ever happened. But the absence of cheap martial-arts fakery helps us swallow a little easier.

By this time, I don't need to say that most SOF readers are going to *love* this movie. But there is one problem. Aside from the exposure of Schwarzenegger's developing acting talent, there is no point to *Commando*. Scoring higher on fast action, good acting, careful photography and believable fights, the latest Schwarzenegger vehicle is still little more than *Rambo* without a moral. ✕



ABOVE: MAG-10's muzzle-heavy design helps it follow targets, and thick recoil pad and high weight keep recoil manageable.



LEFT: Ithaca's big 10-gauge delivers *more* than enough lead, but weight, bulk and magazine limitations leave it stuck in the sporter category.

BELOW: Milt Sparks' Cold Comfort leather shell holder isn't a luxury for a three-shot combat shotgun. It's a necessity.

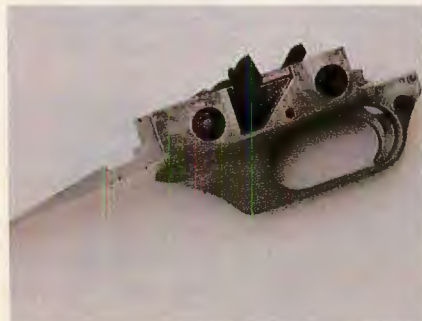


LEFT: Roadblocker trigger housing group with black-painted finish removed after just one cleaning in solvent.



ABOVE: Gas system: stationary stainless-steel piston surrounded by sleeve which traps gas and moves rearward to strike against the slide extension tube.

BELOW: MAG-10's slotted shell lifter should've helped clear testers' several stoppages, but the shell-stop didn't hold rounds after they were pried back into the magazine tube.



ITHACA MAG-10

Big-Bore Blasts Birds But Not Bad Guys

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

ROADBLOCKER: Visions of state police manning highway barricades, waiting to blow speeding desperadoes off the road with a single shell from Ithaca's mighty 10-gauge combat shotgun. Is it the ultimate alley cleaner? Is twice the charge twice as effective? Awesome power or needless overkill?

Ten-gauge ammo is the only one of the

old, big shotgun gauges still produced in the United States. Both four- and eight-gauge shells can be found now only on cartridge collectors' tables at local gun shows. (Gauge, by the way, is defined as the number of lead balls of bore diameter required to make one pound. Thus, in 10-gauge each

Ithaca Roadblocker disassembled.



ITHACA MAG 10 ROADBLOCKER SPECIFICATIONS

Gauge	3½-inch 10-gauge magnum
Operation	Gas. Stainless-steel stationary piston surrounded by a stainless-steel sleeve which drives a slide extension tube. Single lug which locks into a slot cut into the barrel extension. Slotted shell lifter.
Feed mechanism	Two-shell tubular magazine.
Weight, empty	10.75 pounds
Overall length	43.5 inches
Barrel length	22 inches
Sights	Bead front with short rib milled into receiver or ventilated rib entire length of barrel.
Safety	Cross-bolt on trigger guard.
Finish	Phosphate and unfinished stainless steel.
Price	\$707, standard. \$736 with ventilated rib.
Manufacturer	Ithaca Gun Company, Inc., Dept. SOF, 123 Lake Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

ball would weigh 1/10 of a pound.) Ten-gauge magnum shotguns, chambered for the 3½-inch shell, are widely touted as 100-yard waterfowl guns. But, in reality, the absolute maximum effective range is no more than 75 yards. This is not much more than the capability of the 12-gauge three-inch magnum load.

It was as a goose gun that Ithaca Gun Company, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 123 Lake Street, Ithaca, New York 14850) introduced the MAG 10 shotgun in 1975 with a 32-inch barrel. It remains the world's only 10-gauge magnum autoloading shotgun. In 1980 a police version of this gun, called the Roadblocker, appeared with little fanfare. Five years later there are still few who know of its existence.

The Roadblocker sports a 22-inch barrel which is cylinder bored (in theory, no constriction). Barrel and receiver have a dull phosphate finish and the machined 0.050-inch-high, 0.375-inch-wide flat rib machined into the receiver is tipped by a gold (actually brass) front bead sight. This version carries a suggested retail price of \$707. Another model, sporting a ventilated rib, will set you back \$736. The walnut buttstock and forearm are uncheckered and feature a practical non-reflective oil finish. Gratefully, a ¾-inch rubber recoil pad is standard. The metal to wood fit on the gun submitted to SOF for test and evaluation was only fair. The forearm would not stop rattling about no matter how snugly we cinched down the forearm retaining nut. Overall length is 43.5 inches: That's four to eight inches longer than most 12-gauge military/police riot guns. Even worse, Ithaca's 10-bore burdens the scales at 10¾ pounds.

Gas operated, the MAG 10 employs a system vaguely reminiscent of the Czech Vz52 Rifle (See "Vz52 Czech Rifle Checked by Failure," SOF, May '85). Upon firing, some of the propellant gases move through a barrel vent just 7½ inches from the chamber into a stainless-steel stationary "piston" attached to the barrel's underside in front of the tubular magazine. A stainless-steel sleeve surrounding the piston serves as a cup to trap gas escaping from a port in the piston. Expanding gases force the sleeve rearward ¾-inch to drive the slide

Continued on page 78



SOF INSIGNIA



W I N G S

Text & Photos
by Dale Andrade

THERE comes a time when boys grow up and put aside their toys. Into the wooden chest of memories are heaped toy cars and that shiny red fire truck, the tattered butterfly collection and tarnished coins . . . at least that's what Dad said. Now life is more regimented and career and family take precedence — not necessarily in that order. No time for the frivolous pursuits of youth.

Or is there?

A man who questions adult priorities lives down Phoenix way. He spurns advice to leave collecting to children. Instead Al Nordeen sat in his fashionably untidy study explaining his addiction to the art of collecting.

"I collect what I've done." Satisfied that this short statement covered his philosophy on leisure time, Nordeen leaned back in his chair and let me finish scribbling. Covering the walls of his study were frames filled with police badges, Nordeen's personal military decorations and myriad miscellaneous militaria. And that didn't even include the *piece de resistance* — his airborne wing collection.

On the floor under the police badges sat an innocent-looking chest of drawers — the vault which holds Nordeen's treasure. Nestled in the shallow drawers lie 2,800 wings: all arranged according to geographic area and then subdivided into countries. Impressive.

"You appreciate it more after you have time to sit back and enjoy it. When I was in the Army, I didn't care about collecting insignia. It wasn't until I started sport jumping that I realized other countries had airborne units and some of them had nice jump wings."



ABOVE: Soviet airborne patch (center) is a vinyl design on a blue felt background. Advanced para wings (left) indicate 41 jumps while the para instructor wings show 510.



LEFT: While Czechoslovakia is firmly in the Soviet orbit, their airborne wings are completely different from those of their patrons. The Czech airborne patch (center) is worn by all airborne troops. Master para wings (left) and Class I wings are distinctly different from Soviet wings.



BELOW LEFT: Like many of the Eastern Bloc countries, East Germany sponsors civilian sport-jumping organizations. Sport jumpers get wings like their military counterparts (below left). East Germany has altered the style of their jump wings several times. These postwar wings (top) were issued in 1963. The basic para wing of today looks like the example below right.

The best way to get into collecting military jumpwings is to find a dealer who has access to wings from all over the world. Talk to any airborne wings collector and the name Harry Pugh will inevitably crop up. Harry has a reputation as an honest man who is devoted to collecting, selling and trading wings to anyone who is interested.

"After getting burned by a certain dealer who tried to pass off fakes, I got word that Harry wasn't known for that sort of thing." Nordeen got some wings from Harry and took off from there.

After building the base of a wing collection, it's time to get into trading. Everything snowballs from there. "I traded a lot of the wings that I had for better ones. That's the best way to move toward a good collection." But once a collection gets past the point where a shoe box can hold it, things get more complicated. If there are only a few dozen of a certain kind of wing to be found anywhere in the world, chances are you're going to have to trade for it.

"Try to get two or more of the common ones so you can trade up to the rarer ones. After you've been collecting for some years, you'll find that trading nets more wings than buying."

Any wing collector worth his weight in aluminum alloy will eventually get a yearning for Eastern Bloc badges. And that can become a problem. "Communist countries don't understand collecting — you can go to jail for it. Instead, you have to rely on getting them in neighboring countries."



Poland has some of the most distinctive airborne wings in the world. Airborne patch (center) shows the same unique Polish eagle as do the jump wings. Army para badge with 500 jumps (left), Air Force instructor third class (bottom center) and army instructor with 800 jumps are shown.

First class Bulgarian wings are silver (right) while non-rated jumpers receive gold jump wings. Third class free-fall badge is shown bottom center.

These wings aren't from a ComBloc country but they are shown here to illustrate a point. The wings at left are from Guinea-Bissau. Interesting, but Guinea-Bissau doesn't have any airborne units. They're fakes. The badge at top center is an advanced para wing from the Somalia Republic. The one at right is a fake. From the front, only the color of the shield gives it away — the original is a lighter blue.



Al Nordeen's collection is perhaps one of the largest in the U.S. Twenty-eight hundred catalogued airborne and pilot wings are nestled into custom-made cabinets.

Rear view shows the original Somalia Republic wing (top center) to be of stamped alloy. The fake is of cast alloy and is stamped SAMAY.

German WWII airborne wings: The badge at left is a rare German Army issue. In 1936, the German Army formed an airborne unit. It was short-lived. In January 1939 all airborne units came under Luftwaffe command. Only some 400 soldiers ever served in the army airborne making this an extremely hard-to-get badge. Center badge is standard Luftwaffe issue. Badge at right is an easy-to-spot fake. The eagle's wings are closer to the body and the wreath is of rougher design than the original. Also note that the swastika is held closer to the eagle's body.



The search for communist jump wings may have been difficult, but it had at least one good point.

"I had been buying wings as I came across them, but in 1975 I started searching out specific wings. African wings were pretty and after I got some of them, I wanted the world."

The next step for Nordeen was collecting specific wings that belonged to a specific person. An important break came when he got hold of David Scott Donelan's Selous Scouts wings. "Getting personal wings separates serious collectors from casual ones. It's especially satisfying to know that you have a one-of-a-kind jump wing, one that nobody else has . . . unless you sell it."

How do you prove that wings are unique? "Most jumpers are awarded a certificate to go along with the wings: See if you can get that. Also, many wings are serial-numbered. Selous Scouts wings are among those. Get those two things and you have proof of authenticity."

But fakes are the pitfall for jump wing collectors. And it's often hard to tell the difference between jump wings and junk wings. "If you pass up a purchase on a wing that might be a fake, you could miss a good buy. It's all a game."

So how do you tell the difference? "There's no set method, but there are a few things to watch. For example, the Soviets stamp their wings, the U.S. ones are solid. If you get a Soviet wing that is solid, you've a fake. Embroidered wings are the hardest to catch though. It's almost impossible to tell fakes from the real thing." Perhaps the best way to catch the replicas is to check the price. A bargain wing may not be such a good deal. You get what you pay for. ✕



SOF POLICE

STAKEOUT UNIT

Too Much of a Good Thing Killed NYPD's Best

by David Steele

MOVIES portray stakeout teams as floating poker games punctuated by cigars, sandwiches and stale jokes, but NYPD assigned its Stakeout Unit only when the job was too dangerous for anyone else. Bristling with firearms and wearing armor, the Stakeout Unit (SOU) was composed of highly trained officers whose first responsibility was the protection of civilians and police from dangerous criminals.

SOU officer Jimmy Cirillo had served in the New York Police Department and years of the daily grind with the New York Police Department had been interrupted only by moments of excitement. In all his years as a beat cop he rarely drew his gun and never shot anyone. Yet Cirillo took great interest in the fine points of pistol shooting, handgun hunting, and becoming a match champion and department firearms instructor. Still, Jimmy didn't realize just how valuable his firearms training had become until he joined the NYPD's controversial Stakeout Unit.

Before joining the SOU, Jimmy's job was turning city-bred recruits into Wyatt Earps. It wasn't easy. One student patrolman who cocked his revolver in a street battle didn't know how to uncock it. He wrapped a handkerchief around the hammer and carried it like that for three days till he could drop by the range and ask Jimmy's advice. Once the range staff lent detectives an Ithaca riot gun and five rounds for a last-minute stakeout. When they brought the gun back one round was missing, though they denied doing any shooting. The detectives finally confessed they couldn't find the slide release, so to get the round out of the chamber they had shot it into some boxes.

There could be no mistakes like these in the Stakeout Unit.

In 1967 Lieutenant Frank Bolz saw the necessity to organize a group of *highly trained* officers to counter a rash of robbery homicides in New York City. At the time of the SOU's formation NYPD personnel were being reduced to cut costs. Forty firearms instructors were told they could resign, retire, go back to patrol, or join the new stakeout squad. Only ten volunteered for the SOU. Most were not anxious to engage targets that shot back. Jim Cirillo was one who volunteered.

ABOVE LEFT: As a federal firearms instructor, Cirillo passes on the lessons he learned in the Stakeout Unit, not textbook knowledge but streetwise experience.

STEELE ON COPS

David Steele is no newcomer to *Soldier of Fortune*. Our former knives and police weapons editor, he's written articles in the past on "Underwater Fighting Techniques," (SOF, Summer 1975), "Steele on Police Weaponry," (SOF, May and June 1979) and "The Bushmaster," (SOF, Summer 1976).

When Jimmy's partner convinced him to join the SOU they didn't exactly know what to expect. Their first stakeout was only the second for the SOU, and within two hours they had shot three gunmen. When Jimmy moved to confront them his groin protector fell off his body armor and landed with a crash, alerting the robbers. They suddenly turned on him, two partially concealed by a female hostage, the third acting as lookout 60 feet away. Jim began to melt from fear, but as he raised his Model 10 Smith conditioned reflex took over. He concentrated on his sights as a bullet blew up a jar of peanuts right in front of him. Jim's return fire blew the criminals out from behind the hostage, then he terminated the lookout. Jim fired so fast his partner thought he had shot only once, but, in fact, he had triggered six rounds in three seconds, with accuracy he has since been unable to duplicate on the range.

Just before the battle he had memorized the color clothing worn by the clerk and the suspects. He shot black coat, skipped over gray smock, shot pink jacket, then shot blue jacket. In later months he was to use this color coding principle in training SOU recruits.

The SOU had great success in apprehending its criminals, with 47 instances of firearms use, 128 shots fired, 100 hits, 21 suspects killed and 20 injured. Unfortunately, the unit's publicity wasn't the best. Frank Bolz addresses the Stakeout Unit in his book, *Hostage Cop* (Captain Frank Bolz & Edward Hershey: Renson, Wade Publishing Inc., NY, 1979). "[The Stakeout cop] was to identify himself and order the intruder to disarm. Any response but immediate capitulation would be met with a shotgun blast. . . The Stakeout Squad was disbanded after three controversial years, attacked by its detractors as a de facto version of capital punishment without a trial."

Falsely characterized as executioners, the SOU wasn't shooting to punish but to capture the suspect for trial or to prevent him from harming bystanders or police. Squad members took the crooks as they found them and dealt with them accordingly. If they encountered a teenager pretending to have a gun in his pocket they would try to take him without gunplay. Visible firearms and a suspect less than 20 feet away with no substantial cover called for immediate response. The SOU had to get results.

One concerned young officer once asked Cirillo, "Jimmy, we're not here to murder these guys. We've got bullet-proof vests, two pistols and a shotgun. What can he do?" Jim warned him not to take any chances, that a suspect can whirl and fire before the officer finally makes his decision to shoot. The young man learned the hard way. He told a robber to drop his .22 pistol. Instead the suspect fired twice, one round passing by his ear, the other striking his vest over the heart. The officer replied with three rounds from his Ithaca.

Stakeout Unit members often wore hard

body armor (this was the pre-Kevlar era), including a groin protector. They carried two handguns, usually department issue four-inch .38 revolvers, 9mm Browning Hi-Powers or Colt .45 automatics. Primary weapons were the cutdown Ithaca 37 12-gauge pump shotgun, or a paratroop-style M1 carbine using .30-caliber softnose ammo. Although he says the carbine put men down faster than any other weapon, Cirillo usually carried an Ithaca with rifle sights, shortened stock and barrel, loaded with slugs or 00 buckshot. He wore two S&W Model 10 M&Ps loaded with .38 cup-point handloads of his own design (handloads are usually forbidden in police work these days because of department policy and civil liability). In his back pocket he



Expert marksman and department firearms instructor Jimmy Cirillo engaged in successful shootouts with 17 armed robbers in the controversial Stakeout Unit.

On the range with his 12-gauge Wilson Arms "Witness Protection" shotgun.



stuffed a two-inch Colt Cobra with hammer shroud he had won in a shooting match.

Like most policemen, SOU members were taught to shoot "center of mass." Usually this would produce solid hits in the least amount of time. However, Cirillo said he never saw anyone instantly incapacitated except by head shots. Once as he was hiding behind a curtain the robber heard Jim's partner whisper. When the suspect turned his gun toward the curtain Jim fired. At a distance of only 18 inches the one-ounce 12-gauge slug tore through the bandit's head, dropping him like a stone. Brain shots should only be used as a last resort to take a bandit out from behind a hostage.

Special ammo, normally prohibited, helped SOU officers do their jobs. Jim preferred using cup-point bullets because their sharp edges tended to penetrate bone rather than sliding off. Cup-point bullets also work well on the skull, as roundnose bullets will sometimes veer off-course under the scalp. They can also cut arteries instead of slipping around them, and penetrate car bodies, even when striking from an angle. Jim's favorite load was a cup-point wadcutter moving at 1,300 feet per second, a load he could group inside four inches at 50 yards.

Strategy, tactics, and cover were stressed along with guns and ammo in SOU training. The stakeout location was always carefully scouted in advance. (Contrary to popular belief, officers never hid in trashcans, although two eyes peering out from one became the symbol of the Stakeout Unit.) If there was little natural cover available, an entire wall might be built to cover and conceal the officer. When working in pairs, one officer would control the main action while the second officer would scan the background for hidden suspects or unexpected trouble.

Jim Cirillo did the department's dirtiest and most dangerous work. But his 23-year career was conspicuously void of promotions. Controversy surrounding the SOU and successful shootouts with 17 armed robbers must have had something to do with that. When Jim retired from NYPD he became a federal firearms instructor for Customs and then for the Treasury. Now he passes on the lessons he learned in the SOU, teaching the basics as would any other instructor.

He doesn't talk about his experiences much, but when he says things like "accuracy, speed, and stopping power are important, in that order" or "a bullet is effective because of its shape, velocity, and weight, in that order" he is not dishing out textbook knowledge but the benefit of life and death experience. After all, he's survived more gunfights than a dozen patrolmen are likely to see in a lifetime.

SOU's contact record, their no-nonsense practical training, and the press's willingness to make the most of gory details obscured one important statistic. The Stakeout Unit never lost a hostage. Despite the propaganda, they must have done something right. ❧

DESERT DROP

Dugway Ranger Proving Grounds

Text & Photos by Ken Kelsch

“STAND in the door!” I shuffled forward and slammed into a door position. We were still a couple of minutes out from the DZ.

“No, no, no! Just stand back from the door and walk out at a 45-degree angle.” Sergeant First Class Weir, the static-line safety NCO, shouted over the howl of the C-141 engines.

“I know that,” I murmured to myself. It had been a long time, though.

The green light came and I was gone. It was the first jet blast I had made in 17 years. We were jumping high — 2,000 feet, actual. The Army was testing some new chutes and it gave me more time to pull out my still camera for some shots on the way down.

It was 0645 over Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. The sun was just beginning to peek over the horizon. I felt that extraordinary feeling that only a few ever experience — the sheer reckless elation of a perfect canopy floating down weightless until that final rendezvous with Mother Earth.

Not having done any parachuting at all for 14 years, I had taken the Airborne refresher course the week before. After an introduction to the new harness (a quantum leap in comfort), a few PLFs and some tower training, I made an adrenalin-filled jump with the Ranger Department



Author looks pleased with himself after jumping with the Rangers.

WARS AND WAR MOVIES

Ken Kelsch served in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 11th SF Groups from 1966-70. He was also a CCN Recon Team leader during his 1968-69 Vietnam tour. He has a Master of Fine Arts in film production from NYU, holds a black belt in tae kwon do and is currently a free-lance director/camera-man in film & tape commercials, music promos, feature films and documentaries. And he'll try nearly anything else someone will pay him to do.

Kelsch appeared in SOF in August of 1984 when his photos illustrated Dr. John's expose of a mercenary ripoff in Surinam.

cadre the following day from a C-130. I found out just how good the Army's instructional program had been when I threw myself out of the 34-foot tower. Someone videotaped my exit, and even after all that time it was still OK. My confidence somewhat restored, my partner, Chuck de Caro of Cable News Network Special Assignment, and I were off on the first step of our documentary on the latest phase of Ranger School — the desert program.

In the past, the students had gone through this new part of the program at Fort Bliss, Texas. This training segment was inserted in the nine-week program between the mountain phase in Georgia and the jungle course in Florida. A few days had been deleted from both to keep the school the same duration.

There seems to be a big push on to get a lot of young soldiers “tabbed.” The new light infantry divisions are crying for men who have experienced what is probably the best leadership training school in the Army, not to mention the best patrolling curriculum being taught. But this drive has its problems.

Rumors about whether or not recent graduates of Ranger School are competent have thrown some doubt on the validity of the program. It was the same back in the '60s when I was in Special Forces. We heard the same complaints about the



Training Group lowering their standards in order to push troops through for Vietnam requirements. What usually happened was that many junior NCOs rose above their rank and proved extremely competent.

Ranger school retains just about the same attrition rate that it always had — somewhere around the 25-percent mark. The troops that sign the LOM (lack of motivation letter which is supposedly permanently attached to their files) are treated without any overt disdain for their decision.

I saw a West Point butter-bars (second lieutenant) quit in my week. I couldn't help but wonder what had made a combat arms graduate do it, and how it would affect his future. If he couldn't put up with a month of tough duty on his first assignment, how would he react to leading troops in combat?

After sitting and fuming with the rest of the nation for 16 days over the TWA hostage crisis, the relevance of the desert program smacks you in the face. Our special warfare warriors have to be able to handle any crisis that pops up around the world. And the Rangers intend to be the best at it — especially in the desert.

By and large, the Ranger students were young junior grades fresh out of Officers' Basic or E-2s fulfilling quotas perhaps more appropriate to men with a few years in service. Some of the men were cherry jumpers just out of Airborne Basic, others were "straight-leg" Rangers ... something that always puzzled me. Nevertheless, they all certainly seemed to be motivated. With over two months of little food and two or three hours of sleep a day, you have to be.




Watch that last step. Ranger student jumps into the wild blue yonder during desert parachute ops.



Speaking of motivation, the school's staff, or at least those I came in contact with, were outstanding right down the line. Drawn from the Ranger battalions, many were veterans of Grenada and some were Vietnam vets. Their military pride, bearing and craft served as fine examples to the students. Exposing themselves to the same rigors as the students day in and day out, exercising patience and remarkable restraint, I had to admire them. And I admired them as I continued to float to the ground.

After hitting the DZ, the "studs," as they are referred to, quickly packed up their gear and threw their ALICE packs on their backs. Parachutes were quickly policed up and one platoon-size group hurried off to conduct their first desert raid.





There were some dunes, but the terrain was predominantly sandy dirt and lots of scruffy under-brush. The temperature was about 60 degrees F and it had just rained an hour before the drop. There was fresh snow in the mountains ringing Salt Lake City, an hour and some away. It would dip into the 30s at night. Weather would further test the students, since the only protection allowed was a poncho liner and rain gear. The Rogers' Rangers tradition of traveling with only the gear needed to be "light and fast" was certainly not ignored in these days of high tech. These men would be moving and fighting at night and the desert flats offered scant protection from enemy daytime overhead flights. However, the RIs (Ranger Instructors) would teach the techniques of sight avoidance and it wouldn't be long before they could become just another part of the terrain. I can attest to that from the numerous rides I took in helicopters. Rangers were nearly impossible to spot.

We checked into the barracks allocated to "C" team, assigned to the Dahlenega training section. These quarters were National Guard barracks and had not been used in awhile. Chuck and I found an empty room and got some fresh bedding from Staff Sergeant Jim Thurston, one of the live-fire NCOs. We met for the first time with Sergeant First Class Mike Ramsey who ran the team.

Ramsey epitomizes the RI. Proud of his "rebel" heritage and even more proud of the Ranger tradition, he tirelessly drove his men to push the students. Scheduled on the initial stick to jump on Grenada, his firsthand account of the combat drop and subsequent action eclipsed most of what else I had read. I saw him running the program on the ground, in the air and through the commo net for what seemed like a good 22 hours a day. When I mentally tabulated what kind of salary he'd be making at some factory job with overtime and compared it with his rate's known take-home I immediately came up with the reason the Armed Services have trouble keeping experienced NCOs.

At about 2300 hrs., I went out for my first look at an exercise by the students. I rode in a jeep that was to be ambushed by one of the platoons. The driver was Sergeant David Flores who received his "master blaster" wings when he jump-mastered one of the Grenada plane loads.

The platoon had seemed to have had a pretty easy (for Ranger school) scenario for the evening. They were to march about 10 klicks across the open desert, raid the road and any other targets of opportunity, and move into a patrol base by morning. My partner accompanied the RI, SFC Bill Weir, on the walk. De Caro had his newly purchased "Dark Invader"

Starlight scope hooked up to his half-inch video camera and was rolling along the way. The problem was that age-old one of mis-orientation.

The compassman and the patrol leader had forgotten to figure in the 17-degree magnetic azimuth deviation. Still, there were enough points of reference to figure out where they were. The walk — to make a long story short — was almost doubled. To save the evening from absolute disaster, Flores sent up a star cluster at 2100 hours to help the night navigation come to some sort of conclusion.

We drove along in the jeep at about 25 mph until someone threw a hand-grenade simulator at us. Flores braked and threw himself out the door, clutching his stomach, moaning. One of the members of the Search team ran up to check him out while another student drew down on him. His left side was thoroughly searched (the right side was administrative and therefore off limits). The search was OK, but I wondered why the student had not moved Flores' M16 out of grabbing distance. A simple but possibly fatal mistake.

Later, when I talked to more and more of the RIs, I found that these mistakes arose as much from the declining physical state of the soldier as from lack of experience. The Ranger trainees are just plain tired and underfed (two parts of the

program that have been unchanged from the beginning) and sometimes they don't think. Over and over again you hear the RIs stressing the fifth principle of the Ranger Code: common sense.

It was about 0430. SFC Ramsey had stressed how he had tried to avoid a "canned" situation. This was going to be interesting: A bunch of students, dragging their asses in after a 10 or so klick hump, shooting up the terrain and not killing any of themselves, the RIs or — last but not least — me.

When we got to the exercise area, we found someone had made a mistake. Granted, this was new terrain both to RI and student, but you just don't set up a patrol base in the only flat unprotected piece of ground for miles. The patrol was moved back a bit into a slightly less exposed area.

The 60mm mortars were set up and live ammo was distributed. Three or four magazines of 5.56 went to the Rangers with M16s, six or so 40mm HE grenades to those armed with the M203s, a box or three of belted 7.62 to the M60 gunners and about a dozen LAWs armed with subcaliber devices.

The 60s would soften the target area which had been built by the RIs the week before out of some scrounged materials. Silhouettes decorated the mountain basin. A makeshift radar dish lay in the middle of the target area. Camouflage tents were sprinkled here and there. The whole scene was far more elaborate than I expected. The hills 50 meters behind the target area served as natural berms.

False dawn came a little after 0500 hrs. Captain Chapman (on alternate days, Captain Garcia), the OIC, coordinated with Captain Hollar (the range officer) to try to ensure safety. (As an ex-grunt I know that there are going to be casualties in training. The harder and more realistic it is, the more of them you are going to have.)

I got next to SSgt. Brown as he observed the other RIs standing behind the assaulting elements. The leader's recon had taken place hours before in the dark. Each patrol had been issued PSV-5 goggles to scope out the place. The M60s and 60mm mortars were on the left flank. They were ready for action.

Machine guns started chattering. Tracers raked through the enemy area. The assault element opened up with their subcaliber LAWs. The familiar sound of M16s started up on my right and left. Explosions from the 40mm HE rounds ripped through the morning air . . . air that had been so still moments before, broken only by the howls of coyotes. Ranger squad leaders tried desperately to keep their riflemen on line while the patrol leader tried to impose some semblance of order on the madness.

Machine-gun fire kicked up dirt 20 meters ahead of us. Suddenly, the 60s shifted their fire to the enemy reinforcements (an APC) on our right flank and to the rear. Pretty ballsy, I thought, to put all that fire close to the students.

Probably made one or two of them think.

The assault was having problems. The line was deteriorating here and there when the students couldn't or wouldn't keep their men together. The RIs took over with SSgt. Brown shouting over the noise keeping the stragglers out of the machine-gun fire . . . hopefully no one would get shot in the back.

I knew the students' ratings were



A patrol cautiously moves in to survey the results of their ambush.

dropping like flies. In order to complete the course, the student had to pass at least 50 percent of his patrols when functioning in a leadership capacity, and he had to pass at least one in each segment or risk being recycled. There was also a peer rating system that came into play at the end of each phase. Discipline is enforced by good or bad spot reports and the issuing of "major" and "minor" minuses. Three of the former, nine of the latter or any combination of the two was enough to give you the boot.

When the Rangers had swept over the objective, the POW and Search Teams went to work. The Demo Team got called in to lay out a few pounds of C-4 at various targets. After the explosives were set off, it was time for consolidation of the troops and then onto what is probably the most important function of the exercise, the RI critique.

The cadre were never abusive, although a few were doing a slow burn underneath. I wondered how much my presence affected what was happening, but I felt that these men were dedicated instructors and a change for the better had taken place since my own training days. There was very little of the "Old Army" humiliation.

A case in point: Two Rangers fell asleep during the search for hostages. It took a four-hour search on the ground for these two students and a couple of hours of helicopter search. After they were found, the platoon hit its objective anyway. The bottom line for the grunts on the ground was an extra 10-15 clicks of humping and absolutely no sleep for the patrol or the RIs. People were pissed so the critique was direct and to the point. No name calling, no invectives. They were simply informed that they may have started another war because that hostage had been assassinated due to their irresponsibility. I'm sure their peer ratings dropped a point or two that night.

When the weather held (the wind was ferocious on some nights), the men had some helicopter insertions — valuable training in these days when the air mobile concept seems to be such an important one.

The rest of the nights were filled with long 10-20-kilometer marches across the desert followed by various raids and ambushes. Sergeant First Class DeJarnett's aggressor platoon was out every night making life difficult for the students. We went up in the 'copter one night to see if we could lay some smoke on them from the air, but they were nowhere to be seen. That's the way it should be.



TOP: Although dawn is approaching, these Rangers have had little sleep. Lack of food and rest presents one of the hardest obstacles to graduating from Ranger school.

ABOVE: Ranger instructors talk over plans for a live-fire exercise.

BELOW: A practice ambush gives the Search/POW Teams something to do. Here, they search the "dead" for valuable intelligence.



Sergeant First Class Weir's critique stressed the fifth principle of the Rangers: "Common Sense." Preliminary recon had been noisy and inadequate . . . positioning of the supportive machine gun uninspired . . . the whole exercise was clumsy. During the debrief, students started to nod off. Weir proposed that Rangers to the right and left keep their buddies awake, so they might learn from their mistakes.

Staff Sergeant Keith went on to stress one of the most important survival factors all soldiers learn: teamwork. And lack of teamwork constituted these soldiers' big problem. They were not functioning as a unit. Each and every leader was sweating his own individual score, and the qualities which make a good TO&E unit so formidable just weren't there. But teamwork's a big order for a bunch of strangers packed together for only a month or so.

We had no need to worry. My doubts and SSgt.'s disappointment were assuaged on my last night with the Rangers. Sgt. Flores, SSgt. Keith and I drove a 4x4 — and led a deuce-and-a-half — right into the kill

Continued on page 78

MONTONEROS ORDNANCE

Terrorist Arms in Argentina

Text & Photos by Capt. Javier Aristu



Argentina's recent history has been scarred by internal dissent, terrorism, political repression, war and cataclysmic changes of government. Although Argentina has in the past been criticized for civil rights violations, this officer offers an Argentine military explanation of some of their internal unrest, along with some unusual and concrete evidence of the degree to which the police and military fought organized opposition in an undeclared internal war.

— The Editors

1970 marked the starting point of a generalized and coordinated war against Argentina. Radical, organized paramilitary groups within Argentina began a campaign

COUNTERINSURGENCY COMMANDO

Argentine Army Captain Javier Aristu was involved in numerous counterinsurgency operations at the height of the war against internal terrorism from 1975-1978. He is a graduate of the Argentine Military Academy and War School and has engaged in intelligence undercover operations, psychological warfare operations and commando operations in Argentina. Captain Aristu also fought, was wounded and taken prisoner in the Malvinas/Falklands war. All Montonero weapons photos are from his personal collection.

against the government and the people. Beginning with selected targets, terrorism progressed to a general war against the government, the economy and the population of Argentina. Five major terrorist groups were leading Latin America toward expanded urban guerrilla warfare: the Montoneros, Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, Fuerzas Armadas Peronistas, Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo, and Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación. But it was the Montoneros, supported by their elaborate ordnance network, that emerged as the dominant guerrilla force and waged violent internecine warfare against Argentina's military government during the early '70s.

Social order was collapsing and the government could no longer guarantee the safety of its citizens. Assassinations, bombings



ABOVE: Montoneros rioting on 1 May 1973.

LEFT: SFM LG 22 MP grenade launcher: Fires any 22mm tailed rifle grenade, sights graduated for G 40 or G 70 grenades, fires blank 16-gauge shotgun cartridge. Slow-to-reload system of unscrewing barrel to replace cartridge, model E is single-barrel shotgun modified with grenade-launching muzzle device and folding shock-absorber stock, no sights.

and assaults were commonplace. Universal fear created by these frequent and violent eruptions caused the population to refuse to report or offer themselves as witnesses to terrorist acts. Revolutionary extortion rings abducted businessmen's children and relatives. Hundreds of these kidnappings went unreported and millions of dollars of ransoms were paid.

Then Montonero guerrillas attempted to take over the 10th Armored Cavalry Regiment on 19 January 1974. The Regiment Commander, Colonel Camillo Gay, his wife and a soldier were killed. The XO of the neighboring 1st Armored Artillery Regiment was kidnaped and held captive before being murdered. On 1 September 1974 two prominent businessmen, Juan and Jorge Born, were kidnaped and released, but only after a \$60 million ransom was paid. And in one of the most grisly scenes staged by any Argentina guerrilla group, Montoneros kidnaped and executed former President Pedro Eugenio Aramburu on 1 June 1970.

The Montonero guerrillas represented a mix of radical Peronism and Marxism.

Their goals were the violent overthrow of Argentina and the creation of a nationalist-socialist Argentina. Their name was chosen to appeal the the historical sense of Argentines: Montoneros were 19th-century irregular cavalry recruited among the gauchos who fought in the civil wars between provinces.

Out of this chaos emerged a most remarkable industry unique to the insurgency in Argentina—Montonero ordnance. Guerrilla organizations had built complex arms and explosives-manufacturing production facilities in the past, but none had ever distinguished itself as Montonero.

The Montoneros had been able to develop a complex undercover logistical element made up of explosives factories and small-arms factories reaching the level of mass production and financial backing that included deposits of no less than \$70 million in foreign banks. Clandestine presses were used in the forging of documents that, in many cases, were of better quality than the originals. And in using strictly Argentine sources in their munitions network, Montoneros attempted to cut all ties linking them to Cuban-backed activities in Argentina. Instead of buying or obtaining weapons from abroad as most insurgents do, they invested large sums of money in the local production of explosives and small arms.

Communist weapons were seldom found in the hands of Montonero guerrillas. They either stole their weapons from government arsenals or made their own. By this illusion Montonero leaders had hoped to show that they were forces of indigenous "national

BELOW: SFM G5 hand grenade.



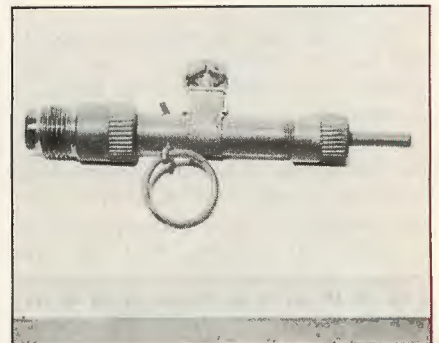


Montonero leader Mario Firmenich in Nicaragua with the Sandinistas.

Carl Gustav 9MM SMG copy: Precision-made copy, 5,000 manufactured but only a few hundred assembled before factory fell to government troops. Unusual among shop-made SMGs since it is as reliable as the original. No stock was made.



SFM/G 70 A-model rifle grenade:
 Hollow-charge, limited armor-piercing capability, plastic ogive, armor-piercing B model same except for C-2 charge.
 Total weight: 660 grams
 Charge weight: 221 grams
 Maximum range: 250 meters
 Effective range: 100 meters
 Length: 400mm
 Caliber: 70mm
 Steel penetration: 7mm



SFM ET 1: Traction fuse to arm booby-traps, screw fitted to SFM 4 hand grenade, packed in plastic bag with string, five meters of trip wire, nails, screws and other hardware.



SFM 4 hand grenade: Four-second-delay fuse, may be transported uncocked; fuse mechanism is cocked when its use is expected, widely used inside the organization.
Charge: 115 grams ammonite
Weight: 575 grams

SFM 5 hand grenade: Small, handy grenade with conventional fuse, new C-2 explosive charge, provided with extra safety pin. C-2 is an exogen-based HE developed to replace ammonite (ammonium nitrate and aluminum composite). Some 800 kg had been made by the end of 1977 in clandestine plants.
Exogen: 75 percent



liberation" rather than puppets of communist expansionism.

At least that was their original intention. Later, when their structure began to deteriorate because of intense counterinsurgent action, they had to once again rely on foreign sources for weapons.

José Sabino Navarro (the Montoneros' military factory service named for a guerrilla leader killed in action), was in fact made up of clandestine networks of several workshops deployed in different cities. Each of them made a specific part or component for various arms. Afterward all the parts were transported to safe assembling facilities for later distribution.

The Montoneros' facilities increased day by day. They bought safehouses, vehicles of all types and even business companies. Many engineers, technicians and skilled workmen were committed to this almost unknown activity of insurgent operation. Even private firms were contracted for the manufacture of inconspicuous parts.

Montonero manufacturers took a cue from conventional arms producers, simplifying training and logistics by clearly marked, sturdily made packaging. Every item was carefully painted and marked with standardized nomenclature as if they had been made in state factories. The Montoneros' emblem and *Ejército Montonero* (Montonero Army) marked on weapons and packaging psychologically affected Montonero first-line guerrillas, since it instilled confidence both in the reliability of their weapons and in the efficiency of the invisible logistical element that supported them.

Terrorism continued on its violent course with irregular intensity until the Montoneros became the priority target for government security forces during the March 1974 "Operation Rastrillo." By 1979 the guerrilla network had largely been dismantled by the Security Forces. The Argentine Army had raided insurgent safehouses and confiscated guerrilla arsenals. Desertions and mutual accusations occurred among middle and low ranks of the organization. Their founder, Mario Eduardo Firmenich, fled to Brazil (he has since been extradited to Argentina for trial). Once the top leaders had escaped, they ordered their followers to commit suicide in case of capture in order to keep the organization's secrets. Montonero terrorists were issued cyanide pills and many obeyed the order.

Montonero leaders abroad tried to regain initiative and solicited money and support from foreign terrorist organizations and governments. But when the leaders reentered Argentina they were rapidly located and arrested or killed while resisting arrest. For the time being Argentina has won its war against terrorism. But the products of guerrilla ordnance factories still appear in the hands of lawbreakers, reminding authorities to guard against organized violence against the people of Argentina. ✖



SFM/G 40 DP rifle grenade: Dual purpose — fragmentation/armor piercing, C-2 charge, 1,500 made, model E inert for exercise use.
Caliber: 40mm

SFM grenade launcher: Cup-type designed to launch SFM 4 hand grenade, range 100 meters at 45 degrees, designed for use with 12-gauge shotguns, steel and felt disc protects grenade from muzzle blast.



MAD MIKE'S OWN STORY

Part I: The Congo Years

by Chris Hoare



The road to Albertville, 1964.

"Mercenary" and "Mad Mike" are synonyms to many students of modern war. Indeed, Colonel Thomas Michael Bernard Hoare has been a familiar character to Soldier of Fortune readers since he was included in the magazine's first issue in 1975.

And no wonder. He is a British Army veteran, an explorer and safari guide in Africa who has motorcycled the length and breadth of the Dark Continent. Hoare is Irish in ancestry and passport, British in temperament, South African by residence — a living definition of professional adventurer. He is the son of a son of a son of a sailor, born in colonial India, who has himself navigated the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean in two of the finest wooden boats still powered by the wind.

Hoare is also a very private man — despite his outgoing ways — and very protective of his family life. Educated in the classics, he loves poetry and can quote Christo-

pher Marlowe and others at great length from memory. But this is another side of him most of the world knows little or nothing about.

To the public, "Mad Mike" Hoare is a mercenary, probably the mercenary of our time.

On 6 May 1985, prison gates in South Africa opened to Hoare's first freedom in almost three years. He stepped into a barrage of photo flashes as a pack of reporters waited to meet him. "It has been a grim experience," a stoic Hoare told them. "Even so, 33 months of imprisonment did something for me. It revitalized my soul, refreshed my liver and regulated my bowels. Beyond that, I cannot recommend it."

Has Mad Mike, now 66, hung up his

guns? Not necessarily, although he admits that his days of roughing it in the field are numbered.

Most of the media's questions concerned Hoare's latest escapade, his recruiting and leading a small mercenary force in an unsuccessful bid to overthrow the Marxist government ruling the Seychelles Islands. The archipelago is located approximately 700 miles northeast of Madagascar in the western Indian Ocean, near the junction of major strategic shipping lanes coming from the Mediterranean, the South Atlantic and the Persian Gulf. After the aborted coup, Hoare and all but six of his men escaped to South Africa aboard a commercial aircraft. The South African government sentenced Hoare and others to prison for hijacking that airliner. Hoare and his co-defendants steadfastly claim this charge was trumped up by the South African government. There is an abundance of credible evidence to support



Hoare.

The biggest question, however, was who sponsored the operation? When Hoare suggested at his trial that the coup was approved at the highest military levels in South Africa, government prosecutors quickly changed the focus of their questioning.

Brushing aside all questions about this after his release from prison, Hoare told reporters they'll have to wait until his next book, *The Seychelles Affair*, is published for an answer. Declining all requests for interviews — except one from *Soldier of Fortune* — Hoare then retired to his secluded home in a wooded mountain area of Natal near Durban. In financial straits as a result of his failed adventure and time in jail, Hoare is writing the book and has his house up for sale in order to recoup his losses. The house has some interesting features. Among other things, the basement has held over two million rounds of ammunition (see the classified ad on p. 111 of the September issue).

Hoare talked with William B. Guthrie, *Soldier of Fortune's* Executive Editor, about Hoare's past, his present and plans for the future. Their discussions at Hoare's home resulted in two big exclusives for *SOF* readers.

One is a three-part series which Hoare says will be the only authorized biography published during his lifetime. This article is the first installment of that series. The photographs illustrating the three-part story are exclusive, generously loaned to *SOF* from the Hoare family collection.

Then, beginning in the February issue, Guthrie will unfold a two-part story revealing the details of the Seychelles operation based on interviews with Hoare's top mercenary officers. It will be the first authoritative insider's look at Hoare's attempted coup in the Seychelles.

This article and the two installments to follow in the December and January issues were written by Chris Hoare, Mike's oldest son. Many of the Congo-era photos illustrating this first installment were taken by Chris

ABOVE LEFT: The Stanleyville column, 1964.

ABOVE RIGHT: A river crossing in the Congo, 1964, using U.N. vehicles which had been left behind.

when, as a schoolboy, he visited his father and went through mercenary basic training. Now 36, Chris has hitched rides through much of southern Africa, has worked as a teacher and vice-principal in a language school and has traveled extensively as a journalist, handyman, craftsman and ski and yachting bum. Now based in Durban, he is a free-lance writer and photographer.

Chris Hoare offers glimpses into his father's life and times that provide the reader insights into the mind of "Mad Mike" Hoare otherwise unavailable. The character that emerges indicates that Mike is not as mad as many people would have the public believe.

"As long as I have known him," Chris wrote to *SOF*, "my father has loved literature, especially Shakespeare. So it is not surprising that he often turns to the poets to express his thoughts."

Mike Hoare, right, with his second in command, Alistair Wicks, at Shinkolobwe, Katanga, 1961.



What lines best describe Mike Hoare's feelings towards warfare? If readers guess "The Charge of the Light Brigade" or something of that nature, they're not even close. Nothing so romantic. Rather Hoare prefers, his son said, verses that portray war in more realistic terms, lines penned by Thomas Hardy.

I've beheld the agony of war
Through many a weary season,
Seen enough to make me hold
That scarcely any goal

Is worth the reaching by so red a road.

Mike Hoare told his eldest offspring, "At the end of the day when you look back at the dead and wounded — and the wounded live for a very long time, often in miserable circumstances — you can see you're left with nothing but horror. At our 1975 Wild Geese reunion we had two men in wheelchairs and one bloke was blind. Monetary compensation, though often generous at the time, is never really sufficient."

When Chris asked his father if killing people is not a crazy way to settle differences, Mike replied, "If you really sit down and think about it, you must conclude fighting is futile. It's not the way to settle differences. It's barbaric. If you reduce the matter to its basic elements, you're throwing pieces of lead at high velocity at another man to kill him. . . . The fact that you are doing that in order to get your way is a continuation of that barbaric thought.

"The logical corollary," said the older-but-wiser mercenary leader, "ought to be that every man should refuse to fight. We should all in conscience be pacifists and there should be no war. But how many of us think that way?

"So eventually you must conclude that there is no alternative to war. Man is like that," Mike Hoare told his son. "In order to alter his views, you've got to use force. Today that force is chunks of lead. One day it might be chunks of atom.

"But for a mercenary soldier to fight merely on the basis of getting paid when he



Pweto, Katanga, 1961. 4 Cdo rests after a heavy night ... in the bar.

successfully completes his mission is, in my mind, madness. There has to be something else," said Hoare, trying to dispel the notion that most mercs will do anything for anyone as long as the money is right.

"In my case it was a firm conviction that what I was fighting for was right. In the Congo I saw communism, naked and raw at a very low level, the destruction of all order, the killing of the intelligentsia, many sentenced to a very cruel death simply because they could read and write.

"When you've got a whole lot of leaderless people, you can indoctrinate them with your particular brand of politics. I saw all of this, and I've stood on 30 tons of Russian arms and ammunition. These things left a lasting impression on me. And since then, I've been an anti-communist and still am to this day."

Soldier of Fortune is proud to bring its readers the story of Colonel Michael Hoare, the most famous mercenary of the modern era.

LUCK of the Irish. Thomas Michael Bernard Hoare must have it. After a lifetime of fighting, traveling and leading expeditions into the dangerous unknown, that conclusion is inescapable.

First there is his heritage. The family home was in Rush, just north of Dublin, Ireland, a land steeped in its own mysterious history, legends and myth. It was from this port that Hoare's father, grandfather and great-grandfather all put to sea as boys and ended up ships' captains.

Then there is Michael Hoare's birth date, 17 March 1919. An Irishman can't get much luckier than to be born on St. Patrick's Day. Hoare's birth was less than two years after a revolution in Russia that was to change the course of human history and shape Hoare's destiny.

If all this is not sufficiently auspicious, Hoare was born with a caul. The rare membrane covering the crown of his head at birth has been considered an omen of good fortune since ancient times.

Mickey, as he was called as a child, was the third of Thomas Hoare's five children.

THE WILD GEESE

A deep sense of personal and ethnic history underlies the choice by Colonel Michael Hoare in nicknaming his famed mercenary battalion "The Wild Geese." Hoare's 5 Commando, the unit's official designation within the Armée Nationale Congolaise (ANC), distinguished itself as the most famous and successful mercenary formation of this century. But then "The Wild Geese" as a name for a mercenary formation is one of longstanding distinction.

The name goes back to the 17th century in Ireland, Hoare's ancestral homeland. James II, living in exile in France under the sponsorship of Louis XIV, was seeking to regain his throne from Cromwell in England. The French king gave him money and arms, and James II expected to get troops from the Irish, who were themselves fighting to throw off the yoke of hated English rule.

James II landed, recruited a group of

Shoulder patch of Hoare's famous 5 Commando over a 1960 map of Africa.



He was born in colonial India, where Thomas was a ship's pilot in Calcutta harbor. The young mercenary-to-be was sent by his parents to spend some of his childhood around their ancestral home in Ireland. Later he was enrolled in boarding school at Margate College, Kent, England. With travel and adventure already in his genes, it was here that Mickey Hoare came under the first influences that led to a life of soldiering.

Because the day had not yet dawned when commercial aircraft could transport someone from one side of the earth to the other in a matter of hours, travel to India meant weeks at sea. So young Mickey and his brother, Alec, were obliged to spend almost all of their holidays at school. They passed many hours and days, when the other students were away, with one of the school masters, a gentleman named Badcock. Badcock would entertain the two eager young listeners with stories about his days in South

Irish mercenaries, and was later joined by French troops. But after losing at the Battle of Boyne on 1 July 1690, James II returned to France, leaving the fighting Irish to continue their struggle for liberty alone. Under command of General Patrick Sarsfield, the Irish were surrounded and besieged at Limerick, and Sarsfield finally surrendered under terms. These terms specified that members of Sarsfield's army would not be persecuted if they took oaths of allegiance to the British crown. Those men who did not choose to do so would be allowed safe passage out of their homeland.

Under a fogged October moon in 1691, Sarsfield and 7,000 men withdrew from the siege of Limerick, exhausted and beaten. They fell back by night along the shores of the Shannon, heading for the coast. Life under the French flag and service in the army of Louis XIV would be better than servitude and religious persecution at the hands of their enemies.

Sarsfield's group reached the coast at daybreak. The paling sky grew dark again with the beating wings of hundreds and thousands of birds, strident against the cold, gray dawn, crying the coming of a hard winter. Looking up, the dejected warriors had their spirits renewed by the sight and continued their journey with resolve. They saw the meaning of the geese and began to call themselves "The Wild Geese."

Over the next two centuries, this vanguard of mercenary soldiers from Ireland fought for various armies in Europe. Their members fought in almost every great engagement on the continent from their beginnings in 1691 until World War I. The Wild Geese sent two brigades to fight for the Boers in South Africa.

After a four-decade hiatus, Mike Hoare renewed their name and their spirit as his mercenary forces fought in the Congo.

Africa fighting in the Boer War. The Hoare brothers heard countless tales about sharpshooting, long marches and fierce fighting against the Boer.

"These stories fired my imagination," Mike Hoare recalls. "That's really where I got my first love of the idea of soldiering."

In 1935, 16-year-old Hoare passed the matriculation exam for London University. He held off, however, staying on at Margate to study for the entrance exam to Sandhurst, one of the world's foremost military academies. Before Mike could complete his plans, however, his father died. Without the considerable private income necessary for Sandhurst's tuition, Hoare was forced to begin supporting himself. He unhesitatingly stepped off into the adult world and never looked back. He took his first job as an accounting clerk, then he secured an apprenticeship with a London accounting firm.

Four years later, as Hitler began to fine-tune the war machine that would overrun Europe, Mike was swept along by the patriotic call to arms and joined the Territorial Army as an infantryman in the London Irish Rifles, affiliated with the Royal Ulster Rifles.

No doubt with an impish grin and a gleam in his eye not unlike a leprechaun, the five-foot, eight-inch Hoare reported for his first military duty on 1 September 1939. His regimental headquarters at Kings Road, Chelsea, was blacked out because of German air raids. Mike loves to recall that he stood in the darkness with the other recruits and solemnly swore allegiance to the Crown on what turned out to be the Oxford English Dictionary.

"It was the happiest day of my life," says Mike. "I knew we'd get three square meals a day and I was so far behind in my studies . . . it was the perfect situation."

He was soon promoted to lance corporal, but not much training got done. Typical of the ardor with which so many who are uninitiated go into battle, many believed that the war would be over by Christmas. This belief, said Hoare, "was my greatest fear. The thought of going back to that bloody office was too much for me."

Mike Hoare had already fallen into a life-long love affair with the military. But garrison life was not for him. What he wanted was *action*. And he soon got it, along with another promotion.

Corporal Hoare was selected by Captain "Paddy" Brett as the only man from the entire regiment to attend the Small Arms School at Hithe. Hoare quickly realized what an honor his selection had been when he arrived at the school and discovered that all the other students were sergeants and warrant officers.

"This was the happiest time of my army life," he said. "The course was beautifully organized and cemented my love of soldiering. I could see how things could be done."

Brett, who lives in South Africa today, still remembers Mike Hoare's eagerness in training and cites it as the primary reason for



Hoare during his days as a British Army captain in the 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps in India.

selecting a corporal to attend an advanced school primarily intended for senior NCOs and junior officers.

"His real strength at that time was that he was anxious to *do* something, not just be part of the herd on the sidelines," said Brett. "I sent Mike to Hithe to see if he could take months of what was really a vicious and horrible course, a battle school where you went everywhere at the double, you learned small arms intimately and where there's no room for error. When you finish at Hithe there's the beginnings of a bloke who is not going to lose his head."

In December 1940, Mike was sent to 170 (MG) Officers Training School as a cadet. Graduating in the top five of his class, Mike was offered a special posting to the newly

Hoare, who has motorcycled the length and breadth of Africa, is seen here on his first such trip in 1953, at a stop in Welkom, South Africa.



formed Reconnaissance Regiment, an elite part of the Royal Armoured Corps. After a year of training, Hoare and his recon unit put to sea for Bombay and an assignment in colonial India in April 1942. Hoare didn't know it then, but the trip around the Cape of Good Hope would change his life forever. It began with a seven-day liberty in Cape Town, South Africa, designed to ease the day-in and day-out monotony of being cramped aboard a troop ship. The break in the long voyage would refresh the soldiers and make them more combat-ready when they arrived in Asia.

"We spent a week in Cape Town with sunshine, magnificent girls, big cars," Mike recalls with enthusiasm. "It was terrific! No one was homesick when we left Britain. But we were all sorry to leave Africa."

Arriving in India, Hoare's regiment was posted at Poona, where Mike continued mechanized training with armored cars and troop carriers. It was in one of these armored cars that Hoare was dispatched to quell his first hostile mob, part of one of the many riots that were undercutting the Crown's rule on the subcontinent. The incident also brought Hoare into contact with one of the most renowned independence leaders of the century.

Mahatma Gandhi had been placed under house arrest by the British because of his potential to foment widespread civil disorder against the colonial government. Hoare, by now a lieutenant, was assigned to guard the residence where Gandhi was being held. Fearing for the safety of their leader and incensed by his arrest, a mob formed nearby to protest.

Lt. Hoare moved up to face the angry mob in a Humber Mk 5 armored car. He recalls his first lesson in crowd control.

"They had a good system in India. You took an Indian magistrate with you, which relieved you entirely of responsibility. He was trained to understand the political situation, and you were — as you ought to be in the army — an extension of the political

will," said Hoare.

"The rule was you couldn't open fire without a special pink form being signed by the magistrate. It seemed ridiculous in theory, but it worked well. You anticipated the time might come soon when you would have to open fire, and he'd say 'OK, I'm signing the pink form.' Then he'd say 'Control the crowd by shooting that man there,' pointing at the man he had selected. And we'd take him out with a rifle. Machine guns were not permitted for this purpose.

"Anyway, all it needed was one shot," said Hoare. "Such was the crowd psychology in India."

Mike was sent to Bombay and put in charge of experimental work on the American LVT 1 (Landing Vehicle, Tracked). Then the Japanese invaded Assam, threatening India, so his division (2 British Division) was sent up as infantry. They saw action at Kohima and eventually beat the Japanese back after a great deal of fierce combat. On one particular day their division lost 50 officers.

Hoare returned to Bombay and was soon promoted to captain. He was assigned to work with Brigadier Bernard Fergusson, a war hero who fought with the Chindit irregular guerrilla force in Burma, in devising training schemes for senior formations. Hoare also saw more action in the Arakan, Burma. But it only whetted his appetite for more.

"It was deadly dull warfare, really," Hoare said. "In a country like Burma, the battle is for the road and its milestones. So you have a frontal assault by a brigade coming up the road. Simultaneously you have a left and right hook, which involves marching through the jungle. A mile a day was a good rate and you were losing men all the time to exhaustion and dysentery. We would encounter small groups of Japs. Sometimes they had roped themselves into trees. It was a horrible, dirty type of war, with no staged battles except at Kohima."

By this time he had met his wife-to-be, Elizabeth Stott, in Simla. Wanting to spend more time near her, Hoare applied for a staff job in New Delhi. They married there in February 1945. But Hoare was soon promoted to major. With the promotion came re-assignment back to Bombay to conduct experimental training with the LVT 4, which was to be used in the proposed Malayan landings.

But fate was about to deal Hoare cards he did not expect, a turn of events applauded the world over, but one which meant an end to Hoare's days as a British regular soldier. Mike was transferred to Edinburgh, Scotland, and was placed in charge of repatriating Poles. Not much of an assignment for a soldier who likes to be in the field fighting. But there was no fighting left. World War II had ended.

Hoare was mustered out of the British Army in 1946. "I might have stayed on, as I had enjoyed the war. It suited me in every way. But there was at that time an upsurge in all forms of learning and culture. I got

caught up in it and went to London."

But as much as Hoare still loves to read hour on hour, book learning soon began to dull for the adventurous combat veteran. Although his accounting practice proved to be lucrative, Hoare said he became "fed up with going down to the city in striped trousers."

Before the war, Mike had been fascinated by the views of Spencer Chapman, an author (*The Jungle is Neutral*) and adventurer whose doctrine is that one gets the most out of life by living dangerously. So, having qualified as a certified public accountant and with nostalgic recollections of the sunshine and opportunity that Africa offered for wild adventures, Hoare decided to move himself, his wife and myself, his first-born child, to Durban, South Africa.

It was the beginning of a love affair that was to take him all over Africa, first as an explorer and adventurer, then as a mercenary soldier. But first he set up his business. Accounting was far too tame for him, so Hoare instead chose the rough and tumble — and potential freedom — of the motor trade.

"I've always had this adventurous streak in me and a motorcycle, even to this day, opens the door to tremendous adventure," said Mike. "So I soon hit on the idea of bike trips. In 1953 I bought an AJS 350 single-cylinder and set off to see Africa before it was too late. I went up through the Rhodesias to Elizabethville in the Belgian



Col. Hoare, left, talking on the road to Stanleyville with his second in command, Maj. Alistair Wicks, center, and Capt. John Latz in 1964.

Gen. Mobutu, left, congratulates Hoare at Faradje on Congo's border with Sudan in 1965. Presently left-wing dictator of what is now Zaire, Mobutu at the time wrote of Hoare as "my excellent friend ... senior officer of exceptional worth."



Congo, then across to Dar es Salaam, Mombasa and Cairo, then by ship to Venice. I then rode to Barcelona and returned to Durban by ship.

"The next year, 1954, with an AJS 500 twin, I took the ship to Mombasa and rode via Nairobi, Uganda, Ruanda, the Mountains of the Moon and the Congo, over lonely and dangerous sandy roads back down to Durban," he said. "In those days there was no politics, nor were there politicians in the Congo. And the Belgians were running a model administration. Every village had its own school, clinic and mission. The Belgians had created beautifully laid-out towns with gardens, squares and so on. Also, to arrive in a place like Elizabethville in the middle of darkest Africa and find superb European cuisine was astounding."

In 1956, Hoare had a near-disaster in an island chain of the western Indian Ocean that was to prove ominous for his future activities on that part of the globe. The Seychelles then were a remote, romantic archipelago with no airport, only the lure of sandy beaches, sailing and fishing. Mike took a boat from Durban and spent his days on Mahé making a movie with his new 16mm Paillard Bolex.

With sailing long in his blood, Hoare hired out a 21-foot sloop with two Seychellois crew. As they returned to the island at twilight, gale winds began to gust and the sloop was blown over. The boat immediately sank. The tip of the mast was sticking out above the water, but only one of the three could hold to the mast without it sinking completely. Darkness soon engulfed them. Sharks and barracuda posed a very real threat. The two locals were terrified and kept screaming, "Les animaux! Les animaux!" Two, then three hours passed. Hoare began to feel like the three men were doomed. Then came a miracle. Someone high on a hill had seen the sloop blown over and gone for help. A small boat came out to rescue them.

But in what was to prove typical in Hoare's life, his brush with death off the Seychelles only served to make him more resolute in his conviction that the only way to live life to its fullest was on the teetering edge. Mike had read up on the Lost City of the Kalahari in Bechuanaland, now Botswana. So the very next year he equipped a pale green Willys Jeep station wagon and set off with guns, cameras and petrol trailer to begin a search.

What Hoare found instead was the Okavango Swamps and an extraordinary young naturalist and crocodile hunter, John Seaman. Hoare visited with Seaman in the latter's swampy bivouac for three months, making forays far into the interior, braving areas dotted with quicksand and heavily infested with some of the world's most poisonous snakes. On one occasion he and Seaman shot a hippo from their boat. The wounded beast charged their little vessel and easily flipped it over, dumping them into the dangerous waters.

True to his form, though, Hoare (and

Seaman) survived.

But 1957 held even more adventures in store for Mike Hoare. He trekked across Basutoland, now the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, with mules to the Malutsunyane Falls, reputed to be one of the highest in Africa and accessible to this day only on foot or on horseback. On another occasion, he joined some friends who were trying to blaze a trail across the mountainous country by Land Rover. Their way was blocked by a flooded river. Rather than wait, Mike marched out alone, carrying virtually nothing, sleeping in African huts at night and covering 70 miles in three days.

But it was to the swamps that he was drawn to return. "The place captivated me," he said. "In 1958, I ran the first safaris ever across the Kalahari Desert, up into the Swamps and on to Victoria Falls."

Mike Hoare continued his adventures undaunted. Instead of slowing down, his safaris only grew more lengthy and bizarre. He took off into the bush again in 1960, searching for a freakish giant chimpanzee in the rain forests of the Nkita Plateau in Nyasaland, now Malawi. He'd heard several reports about the beast and went with an American friend to try to capture it. They did sight the Umfiti, as it was called, but could not corner it. The animal was about six feet tall, compared to the average height for a chimp of about two-and-a-half or three feet. After chasing it day after day through wet 11-foot buffalo-bean grass, Hoare and his companion became ill and had to withdraw.

But his long absences from his family and the hardships he suffered in the jungles gave him cause to reflect about his pursuits away from his wife and three children, Chris, Tim and Geraldine. Some of the lessons he learned about adventuring and the domestic toll it can exact from a family were bitter ones. Later, his absence fighting in the Congo would be a contributing factor in a divorce from my mother, Elizabeth.

"An adventurer's life is hard on his family and could be regarded as being selfish," Hoare acknowledges today. "I often used to think I'm enjoying myself, but there's a price. The people at home are not enjoying my absence. But looking back, I'm absolutely convinced a man is entitled to do this, even at the expense of the discomfort of his family."

At home, myself and the rest of his family were always waiting impatiently for the day when he would return from some adventure. It was hard, and we surely missed him. But there was compensation. He was the most exciting father in the whole world. School holidays often included camping and other trips. And no other kids I grew up with could claim a father who had so many Land Rovers, guns, cameras, dinghies, yachts, canoes — and eventually so much fame.

By this time, the growing wave of anti-imperialism was flooding Africa and the long-simmering socio-political caldron was about to boil over. On 30 June 1960, the Belgian Congo was suddenly granted independence. Unfortunately, none of the local



Col. Hoare, center with binoculars, gives his point men final orders for the dash into Baraka, Congo, in 1965.

political powers had matured enough for an effective government to emerge. The country quickly degenerated into the primitive tribalism from which the Belgians had worked so long and so painstakingly to rise above. Anarchy soon became the order of the day.

In an effort to maintain profitable ties with the West and keep civilized government in at least part of the old Belgian Congo, Moise Tshombe of the Congo's copper-rich Katanga Province quickly declared the region independent of the newly freed Congo. Complicating Tshombe's efforts were the Baluba, a minority tribe in Katanga. The Baluba rebelled against the Congo and Katanga and overran part of Tshombe's province.

This turn of events thrust upon Tshombe circumstances that would make him responsible for bringing back mercenarism in the modern era.

"Tshombe, now the President of the Independent State of Katanga and having an ineffective army, decided that mercenary

With only 48 hours of preparation, Hoare's 5 Commando mine-proofed this truck on the front with leaf springs from a vehicle and 3/8-inch steel plate and concrete to protect the sides. Photo: Robin Griffin



troops should be used to quell the Baluba and retake the towns," Mike recalls. "He sent an adviser named Charles Huyghe, whom I had met on my travels, to South Africa to recruit men for an international force. When I met him again I thought, yes, this is my style, and took the job. That was March 1961, the first time in modern times mercenaries were used.

"My unit was called 4 Commando. There were also Belgian mercenaries who soon gained the doubtful distinction of being called *Les Affreux*, the Frightful Ones. We met the Baluba at Manono. They were overwhelmed and withdrew to their tribal areas. We followed them and had a series of skirmishes. But it was not very taxing for us as they were armed with bows and arrows — with deadly poison tips admittedly — and Martini Henrys from 1879, that sort of thing," said Hoare.

By this time, however, events in the Congo as a whole had gone from bad to worse. The United Nations sent 25,000 troops with their own air force and a top-heavy administration in an attempt to occupy the whole country. Cannibalism, torture, mutilation, the raping of nuns and other atrocities by teenaged tribal rebels and their mob of followers — as well as general bloodshed on both sides — increased.

"There were about 5,000 U.N. troops in Katanga trying to force Tshombe back into the fold. We had a brush with them at a place called Nyunzu," said Hoare. "We had just done a long march. Many of my men had malaria. As we were almost surrounded and vastly outnumbered, I ordered a withdrawal. This meant another long march. Two of my men . . . decided to get out in a jeep and were never seen again.

"I subsequently found out that they had got to a Baluba town called Kalamata, where they had been tortured and killed." (A full firsthand accounting of this and other detailed incidents are in a book of mercenary stories soon to be released by Mike Hoare under the title *Road to Kalamata*.)

As Tshombe's mercenary army under Hoare and others fell back, the U.N. forces kept on the pressure. Canberra bombers flown by anti-Castro Cuban pilots dropped 100-pound bombs on hospitals in Elizabeth-

Continued on page 87

R.O.K. RIFLES

Mixed Designs Give Mediocre Results

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

“MADE in Japan” has been the trademark of imitation for 40 years, but “Made in Korea” may replace that stamp in assault rifles. In one way or another Daewoo Precision Industries, Ltd. has managed to copy most modern assault rifles in their K2 and K1A1 rifles.

Daewoo's 5.56mm NATO caliber K2 and K1A1 rifles indecisively employ two completely different methods of gas operation. Both fire from the closed-bolt position. The K1A1 model is the short, compact carbine version of the Daewoo system. Sporting a 10-inch barrel equipped with an XM177E2-type flash suppressor/sound moderator and retracting wire buttstock, the K1A1 operates in the manner of the M16 (which is in turn that of the Swedish Ljungman AG42 rifle).

After the bullet passes the gas block, some of the gas moves through the barrel vent and back along a stainless-steel tube on top of the barrel into a so-called “key” mounted on the bolt carrier. Moving into the bolt carrier's hollow interior — which has a flash-chromed surface — expanding gas drives the carrier rearward. During the carrier's initial rearward surge, the bolt is rotated and unlocked from the barrel extension by a cam pin moving in the bolt carrier's cam slot.

Despite much criticism of the system, it has always worked quite well.

The bolt's configuration is that of the M16 series: eight locking lugs, one of which is on the extractor. Three typical M16 gas valves (gas check rings) are fitted to the rear of the bolt. Gaps in these rings should always be separated or excessive gas blow-by will result. Also borrowed from the M16, the chrome-plated firing pin is not spring-loaded. The assembly of AR-18-type twin recoil springs and guide rods (also flash-chromed) is mated to a stud above the bolt carrier's key by a transverse bar across the

front of the guide rods, which also serves to retain the springs. Upper and lower receivers are held together by the recoil spring assembly's end cap.

Now let's take a look at the other weapon.

With an 18.3-inch barrel and solid, but folding, buttstock, the K2 model is the stan-

dard infantry rifle version of the Daewoo system. Its method of operation is like that of the Kalashnikov. A conventional gas cylinder with an evacuation port 1.75 inches aft of the barrel vent has been threaded to the gas block above the barrel. Gas diverted through the barrel vent into this cylinder drives the chrome-plated piston rearward. The piston has a cupped end. No tool is provided to clean this recess, but it will operate a long time without servicing and does offer a sharper initial recoil impulse.

A roll pin attaches the piston to the piston extension. In turn, the piston extension is fixed to the bolt carrier by two roll pins. The K2's bolt carrier is the same cylindrical shape and length as that of the K1A1, but its diameter is smaller and weight much lighter (to offset the added mass of the piston and piston extension). A Kalashnikov-type recoil spring and guide rod ride in the piston extension's hollow interior. As with the K1A1, the K2 guide rod's end cap also serves to hold the upper and lower receivers together.

A dovetail cut into the top surface of the bolt carrier accommodates the same retracting handle used on the K1A1. While the bolt carrier's cam slot is identical to the K1A1, the K2's cam pin has been shaved at an angle to permit removal from under the piston extension. Again, the carrier's interior has been flash-chromed. The firing pin, retained in the bolt carrier by the same type of pins used in K1A1s and M16s, is of the same length, but is not interchangeable because its retaining spool is set back. With eight locking lugs, the K2 bolt resembles that of the K1A1/M16. But the rear neck is a quarter-inch longer and there is no provision for the three gas valve rings. Also, the K2 extractor is a quarter-inch longer.

Neither of these systems provides primary extraction to unseat the case during rotation of the bolt. Like many other piston-

MINIMI MIMICRY

Their capacity to walk away with the designs of others knows no bounds. Daewoo Precision Industries, Ltd. is fielding a Light Machine Gun in caliber 5.56mm NATO that is embarrassingly close to the FN Minimi (M249 SAW) combined with distracting elements from a few other weapons.

I have not fired this weapon, yet. But from what I can discern it is gas-operated and belt-fed. There is no potential for feeding from M16 magazines. The weapon weighs 13.4 lbs. with the bipod. The quick-change barrel weighs 3.6 lbs. and has a six-groove bore with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches for M193 ball ammunition. The gun has a folding tubular buttstock. Overall length is 39.4 inches with the stock extended and 32.7 inches with the stock folded. There is an adjustable gas regulator and the cyclic rate of fire can be altered from 700 to 900 rpm.

The barrel's carrying handle has been taken from the M60 GPMG and the bipod is patterned after that of the U.S. M14E2. The muzzle device is from the M16. Everything else seems to be straight off the Minimi.

Astounding. These Far East small-arms merchants are but one short step removed from the Soviets, who take whatever they please from whomever, without regard for proprietary rights.



ABOVE: Semiautomatic-only version of the K1A1 carbine, its most positive features stripped away by the BATF.

RIGHT: Close-up of lower receiver markings on the selective-fire (top) and semiauto-only (bottom) versions of the K1A1.

BELOW RIGHT: K1A1 Betalight Trilux night-vision front sight (on selective-fire version only) is manufactured by Saunders Roe in Great Britain.

operated systems, the K2 is fitted with a four-position gas regulator. The markings are 'O,' 'L,' 'M' and 'S,' which stand for Open, Large, Medium and Small, respectively. The 'O' position blocks all gas from moving through the barrel vent into the cylinder and is used for launching grenades with ballistite (blank) ammunition. The 'L,' 'M' and 'S' positions permit decreasing amounts of gas to enter the cylinder. 'M' is the normal operating position, severe fouling calls for the 'L' position and 'S' is reserved for conditions of either extreme heat or ammunition of higher pressure than MilSpec. As with the FN FAL's gas plug, adjust or remove the gas regulator by pressing in on the spring-loaded retaining plunger with the nose of a bullet.

There are numerous other differences — some subtle, some obvious — between the K1A1 and K2 rifles, with some minor design and component commonality sandwiched in between. Upper and lower receiver forgings of both weapons appear to be fabricated from the same T6 aluminum as the M16 series, hard-anodized and painted with a finish similar to Sandstrom 9A (baked on at 400 degrees F). Forging blemishes and other minor defects have been touched up by hand with the same ink-colored paint used by Colt for this purpose. The K2's upper receiver forging — mated with exceptional tightness to the lower re-



R.O.K. RIFLES

RIGHT: K2 rifle with Knight's Armament Co. sound suppressor as developed for U.S. Navy SEALs for use on the M16A1/A2-series rifles.

BELOW RIGHT: Semiautomatic-only version of the K2, disassembled.



ceiver — has been beefed up in the area of the recess cut to accommodate the cam pin when the bolt is in the locked position.

The K2 upper receiver is equipped with an integral scope base. Screws for attaching a scope mount are threaded to brass bushings set into the receiver, but scope and mount are not yet available. The top of the aperture rear sight is notched to match a crude blade cast into the front sight hood for emergency battle sights when the scope is in place. (No matter what you may have heard, this sight *won't* work for a grenade sight.) Press-fit and peened into the sight hood, the K2 front sight is a fixed blade. Its protective hood completely encloses the blade and is part of the gas block forging and the rear sight's protective ears are part of the upper receiver casting.

Effective but unusual, the K2 rear sight is a peep aperture sight in the form of an L-shaped bar. Unfortunately, the sight protrudes above the protective ears. Windage adjustments are by means of an M16-type drum on the right side. Depressing the spring-loaded stud with the nose of a bullet and rotating the drum to the next notch will move the point of impact 2.8 cm at 100 meters. Turn the drum clockwise to move the point of impact to the right and counterclockwise for a change to the left. Elevation zero is achieved by rotating a nut (which looks just like the timing adjustment nut on Ma Deuce) that supports the four-position elevation pin under the L-shaped sight bar. Rotate the knob on the left by hand to either 1.2, 3, 4 or 5 (120, 300, 400 and 500 meters, respectively).

Tritium inserts cover opposite sides of the rectangular K1A1 front sight post and it's tipped in red plastic. Elevation adjustments are made in 180-degree rotations, so only two sides of the sight need these Betalight Trilux night sights (manufactured by Saunders Roe Developments Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex, England). Enhancing visibility of the sights in low light, the tritium light source has a maintenance-free life of 10-20 years. Trilux sights fitted to small arms are now in service with several NATO armies and armed forces in the Middle and Far East. The K1A1's front sight protective ears are part of the gas block forging.

Flip-type rear sights (protective ears are integral with the upper receiver and fully



DAEWOO K2 RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber	5.56mm NATO
Operation	Gas. Four-position adjustable regulator with cut-off position for grenade launching. Short-stroke piston of the Kalashnikov type. Rotary bolt. Fires from the closed-bolt position.
Cyclic rate	700 rpm (selective-fire version only, which also features a three-shot-burst mechanism).
Feed mechanism	M16-type magazines.
Weight, empty	7.5 lbs.
Overall length	38.4 inches (28.7 inches with the stock folded).
Barrel	Six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches to accommodate M193-type ammunition. Chrome-lined chamber and bore. Three-port, bird-cage muzzle device.
Barrel length	18.3 inches.
Sights	Fixed-blade front with protective hood. Peep aperture rear with protective ears; adjustable for elevation zero and windage; four elevation positions: 120, 300, 400 and 500 meters.
Accessories	Sling, cleaning tools and pouch, bayonet and blank-firing attachment.
Status	In production. Entering service with the Republic of Korea Armed Forces.
Manufacturer	Daewoo Precision Industries, Ltd., Republic of Korea.
Distributor	Stoeger Industries, Dept. SOF, 55 Ruta Court, South Hackensack, NJ 07606 (semiautomatic-only version).



LEFT: For no known reason, Daewoo has chosen a different, Ljungman-type gas system for its carbine.



BELOW LEFT: Selective-fire version of the K1A1, disassembled.

DAEWOO K1A1 CARBINE SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber** 5.56mm NATO
- Operation** Gas. Direct action via a stainless-steel tube into a key on the bolt carrier in the manner of the M16. Rotary bolt. Fires from the closed-bolt position.
- Cyclic rate** 750 rpm (selective-fire version only, which also features a three-shot-burst mechanism).
- Feed mechanism** M16-type magazines.
- Weight, empty** 6.4 lbs. (selective-fire); 6.5 lbs. (semiautomatic-only).
- Overall length,**
 - stock extended** 33 inches (selective-fire); 37.5 inches (semiautomatic-only).
 - stock retracted** 26 inches (selective-fire); 29.9 inches (semiautomatic-only).
- Barrel** Six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches to accommodate M193-type ammunition. Chrome-lined chamber and bore. XM177E2-type muzzle device (selective-fire); 3.5-inch six-port muzzle device (semiautomatic-only).
- Barrel length** 10 inches (selective-fire); 13.5 inches + permanently attached 3.5-inch muzzle device (semiautomatic-only).
- Sights** Rectangular front post with Betalight Trilux night sight (selective-fire) or M16-type round post (semiautomatic-only); both adjustable for elevation zero. M16-type rear sight with two apertures. Small aperture ("L") for ranges beyond 300 meters. 0.265-inch-diameter aperture for close ranges and night sight.
- Accessories** Sling, cleaning tools and pouch, and bayonet (selective-fire).
- Status** In production. Entering service with the Republic of Korea Armed Forces.
- Manufacturer** Daewoo Precision Industries, Ltd., Republic of Korea.
- Distributors** Kestrel International Corporation, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 809, Mesquite, Texas 75149 (selective-fire version).
 Stoeger Industries, Dept. SOF, 55 Ruta Court, South Hackensack, NJ 07606 (semiautomatic-only version).

protect the sight) are patterned after that of the M16 and feature two apertures. The smaller aperture (marked "L") is used for long-range shooting beyond 300 meters. The unmarked leaf is for ranges from zero to 300 meters. Its aperture measures 0.265 inches in diameter and it has been enlarged to allow for eye pupil expansion in darkness when using the Trilux front sight. The effect is that of a "ghost ring" aperture, which is excellent for snap shooting even in bright sunlight. Windage adjustments are identical to those of the K2.

Both rifles have six-groove barrels (but-ton broached in the Colt manner) with a right-hand twist of one turn in 12 inches to accommodate M193 ball ammunition. Chambers and bores are chrome plated. The gas blocks are pinned to their barrels. In turn, the K1A1 barrel is held to its upper receiver by an M16-type nut and the K2's barrel is retained by a collar locked to the receiver with a roll pin and Allen-head screw.

The K2 muzzle device looks like the M16's bird-cage flash suppressor, but it has only three ports. A jam nut permits the device to be adjusted for either right- or left-handed shooters. Right-handed firers should position the K2 muzzle device so that one port is upper dead-center, with the remaining two offset to the right. This device seems to reduce muzzle climb while reducing dust signature when firing from the prone position in arid environments. Patterned after that on the Colt XM177E2, the K1A1's muzzle device not only serves as a flash hider, but helps to reduce the intense muzzle blast produced in this caliber with a 10-inch barrel (believe-it-or-not, the BATF has ruled this device to be an NFA sound suppressor). It also has three ports and can be positioned for right- or left-handed shooters.

The K1A1's front sling swivel is attached to the left side of the gas block and that of the K2 is mounted directly to the barrel, 1.25 inches to the rear of the gas block, rotating in either direction, impeded only by the gas cylinder. Rear sling swivels on both rifles are located on the left side of the lower receiver and rotate about 45 degrees.

Inconveniently, the swivel on the K1A1 always seems to rotate directly into your face during burst-fire sequences. It should be relocated. Still, the swivels themselves are the best I've seen. For instance, they've been dipped in black plastic to muffle their rattle. Trivial? Only until you've humped the trail on a night op and listened to sling swivels clatter like a string of Chinese firecrackers.

A bayonet stud forms the lower portion of the gas block and accepts the standard U.S. M7 bayonet on both the K1A1 and K2.

Attached to each barrel is a pair of smart-looking nylon-base, black-plastic hand-guards. Four large ports on top and alumi-

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RIGHT: Firing the K1A1 with XM177E2-type flash suppressor/noise moderator.

BELOW RIGHT: Korean rifles used in SOF's test and evaluation, from top to bottom: semiautomatic-only K2 with Knight's Armament Co. suppressor, selective-fire K1A1 carbines with Knight suppressor and XM177E2-type muzzle device and semiauto-only K1A1.

num heat shields help dissipate heat. Nevertheless, during extended burst-fire, the ribbed and normally quite comfortable forearm can get almost too hot to hold. Handguards are retained by a screw which permits them to be removed easily from both the K1A1 and K2. No tool is provided for the screw, and a cartridge head won't turn it. Something needs to be done about that.

We leave our examination of the upper receiver group with the observation that the ejection port on the right side is quite small (obviating the requirement for a dust cover) and yet no spin-backs were ever observed during the test sequence. Why? To find out we must move to the lower receiver.

Daewoo borrowed their ejector directly from the Stoner 63 rifle/machine-gun series. It wouldn't surprise me if the parts were interchangeable. The ejector is mounted on the lower receiver, adjacent to the bolt-latch release and the moving bolt passes over its spring-loaded, chisel-shaped head via a channel cut into the bolt body. Eugene Stoner's ingenious design smooths out the ejection pattern, regardless of irregularities in the gas impulse due to increased fouling or ammunition variations, and permits incorporation of a very small ejection port. In theory, spring-loaded ejectors located in the bolt face (as used in the M16 and M60) require slightly greater recoil spring strength since they push the bolt group away from the chamber.

Depressing the bolt-latch release button will pivot the bolt latch downward and permit the bolt group to move forward. Unfortunately, it juts too far away from the receiver body and merely setting the rifle down on its left side will cause the bolt group to slam into battery. This can be startling.

The selector is also located on the left side of the lower receiver. Markings also should have been placed on the right side of the receiver. Selector operation is unusual but simple and practical, rotating continuously in either direction among four securely detented positions: semiautomatic ('1') at 12 o'clock, full-auto ('A') at 3 o'clock, three-shot burst ('3') at 6 o'clock and safe ('S') at 9 o'clock. Markings are also rendered in Korean. The selector lever cannot be manipulated unless the hammer is cocked.



Clearly based on the M16 series, the trigger mechanism features bents on the hammer which engage the trigger sear and spring-loaded disconnecter sear in the semi-automatic mode. In full-auto fire the hammer is held back by an auto safety sear, which is released by the bolt carrier in its final forward thrust.

Daewoo's three-shot-burst mechanism is also similar to that found on the Colt M16A2: a ratchet with an over-running clutch. Each cycle of the hammer turns the spring 60 degrees until after 180 degrees the hammer falls from the auto sear to the trigger sear. It is of the interrupted type, which means that it picks up the count wherever it left off. Thus, the first in this cycle after a magazine change may consist of either one, two or three rounds.

This system is less complex and uses fewer components than the intricate ratchet-counting device fitted to Heckler & Koch weapons. HK's three-shot-burst mechanism holds the sear off the hammer until the burst has been fired. Any interruption — such as an empty magazine — starts a new



Pistol grip cleaning kit has been lifted out of the FN FAL.

count as releasing the trigger rests the counter. Because of the Daewoo three-shot-burst mechanism's rotating cam, trigger weight will increase at each stage of the cycle. The K1A1 rifles I fired both started with a crisp, drag-free pull of 7.5 lbs. at stage one and ended with 9.0 lbs. at stage three.

Except where it mates to the lower receiver, the shape and grip-to-frame angle of the pistol grip have been taken from the FN FAL/FNC/Minimi series and checkering added. A pistol-grip cleaning kit, with oiler and a storage chamber for a nylon-cord pull-through cleaning rod, has been lifted from FN's design without modification of any kind.

In aping Western designs, a sling swivel position has been added to the pistol grip. It is used on the AR-18 because the buttstock folds. The idea supposedly appeared first on the Colt Model 01 AR-15 as a so-called "police" sling position. It serves no function whatever on the K1A1/K2 series, because it is located directly below the rear sling swivel permanently mounted to the rear of the lower receiver body.

The magazine catch system is not quite that of the M16. Modification was required to accommodate the protrusion in the lower receiver casting, which holds the ejector and bolt hold-open device. The trigger guard has also been changed just enough to skirt Colt's proprietary rights. It's curved instead of flat. But depressing the spring-loaded pin in the trigger guard located on the right side, just aft of the magazine well, will permit you to rotate the trigger guard downward for use in arctic environments.

A small, spring-loaded buffer has been mounted to the lower receiver's rear wall. It reduces the force of the bolt carrier's impact against the receiver and serves as an anti-bounce device to inhibit firing out of battery.

The exterior rear surface of the lower receiver in all four test specimens had been crudely rounded by hand on a bench grinder before final finishing. It looked very unprofessional, like it had fallen victim to the worst kind of shade-tree, jack-legged gunsmith. Consequently, each of the rifles has a slightly different configuration. Completely unacceptable.

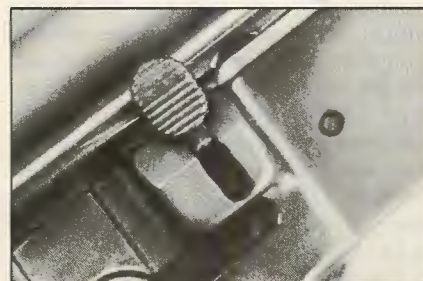
Another problem is that the Daewoo rifles use the undesirable M16-series magazines. Those who build small arms based almost entirely upon the designs of others would be well-advised to imitate the best — not the worst — ideas and concepts. The only stoppages encountered in test-firing the Daewoo rifles were of the infamous "bolt-over-base" variety that have plagued the M16 series since its inception. These malfunctions are entirely a function of the magazine.

The K2 rifle's folding buttstock appears to be a child of the AR-18 in its shape. But the latching system is exactly that of the Galil, *not* the FN FAL as reported by others. There is no FAL-type spring-loaded catch which must be moved simultaneously with downward pressure on the stock. Latching is secure and rigid. A hard rubber pad has



ABOVE: Upper receiver and operating group. Top: K2; bottom: K1A1.

RIGHT: K1A1/K2 ejector system mounted in lower receiver has been taken directly from the Stoner 63 series.



been attached to a nylon-base, black plastic stock. The stock folds to the right, where it unfortunately covers the magazine release button.

However, the folding feature itself is rendered unnecessary by the K1A1's availability. Unfortunately, the K1A1 buttstock is of the retracting type — a so-called "wire" stock consisting of two steel rods which slide in channels cast into either side of the lower receiver. Originally used on the M3/M3A1 "grease gun," they offer only marginal stability. The buttplate portion of the stock has been coated with a comfortable rubber-like synthetic. Stock adjustment and removal are controlled by a spring-loaded button on the right side at the end of the lower receiver. There are two extended positions, one suitable for larger people and another for those of smaller stature.

Semiautomatic-only versions of both these rifles are imported and distributed by Stoeger Industries (Dept. SOF, 55 Ruta Court, South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606). Since the selective-fire options (full-auto and 3-shot-burst) have both been removed, the selector offers only two positions: 'SAFE' still at 9 o'clock and 'SEMI' now moved to 3 o'clock. All Korean markings have been removed from the lower receiver. Lever rotation of a full 180 degrees is a little awkward, so take advantage of your stronger hand muscles to push the lever downward with the thumb from either position. The auto-safety sear has of course been removed and other BATF-required alterations have been made to the trigger mechanism, bolt carrier and lower receiver. Conversion back to full-auto fire would require parts not available and extensive re-machining. In the process, the trigger pull weights on the semiautomatic-only versions

have been reduced to a crisp and consistent 5.5 lbs.

The semiauto-only version of the K2 has suffered no further indignities in the plastic surgery required to render it socially acceptable to the BATF's NFA (National Firearms Act) Branch.

But the poor K1A1 has re-surfaced as a ludicrous mutant. The retractable stock is now 1.5 inches longer — presumably to better serve occidental anatomy. That's fine. And the bayonet stud has been removed and the front sling swivel relocated in its place. But the 10-inch barrel and its XM177E2-type flash suppressor/sound moderator are gone, replaced by a 13.5-inch tube tack-welded with the goofiest six-port muzzle device ever seen. The muzzle device is 3.5 inches long. Its permanent attachment to the barrel brings the overall barrel length to 17 inches, one inch over the NFA legal minimum. The great Trilux night sight has been removed and replaced by the M16's round front sight post. It is adjustable for elevation zero only. Each notch of rotation will move the point of impact up or down 2.8 cm at 100 meters of range.

The K2 rifle in either version weighs 7.5 pounds empty and has an overall length of 38.4 inches, 28.7 inches with the stock folded. At 6.4 pounds in its military configuration the K1A1 gains only a tenth pound in its BATF-approved street-legal variant. Rock 'n' roll K1A1s have an overall length of 26 inches with the buttstock retracted and 33 inches with the stock extended to its maximum. Semiauto-only K1A1s measure out to 29.9 and 37.5 inches.

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RIGHT: K1A1/K2 forearm, although equipped with aluminum heat shield, still becomes too hot to handle during extended burst-fire sequences.

BELOW RIGHT: XM177E2-type flash suppressor/noise moderator mounted to K1A1 is considered a sound suppressor by the BATF and must be registered as such.

Different though they are in method of operation, disassembly of either the K1A1 or K2 is essentially the same.

Remove the magazine and clear the chamber. Place the bolt into the battery position under control. Rotate the selector lever to the 'SAFE' position. Push forward (toward the rear sight assembly) on the serrated locking latch at the end of the guide rod(s) and swing the upper receiver up and away from the lower receiver. They can be completely separated by pushing the front retaining pin, which is captive, to the right as far as it will go.

Withdraw the guide rod(s). Pull the retracting handle to the rear as far as it will go and remove it. The bolt group will now drop out the rear of the upper receiver. Set the K2's gas regulator between either 'S' and 'O' or 'L' and 'M' and pull it out of the gas cylinder. Handguards can be removed by unscrewing the retaining screw.

M16 procedures apply to the bolt carrier group of either rifle. Push the bolt inward to the locked position. Remove the firing-pin retaining pin. Let the firing pin drop out the rear. Rotate the cam pin 90 degrees and withdraw it from the bolt carrier. Pull the bolt out the front of the bolt carrier. Use the firing pin to drive out the extractor pin while pressing down on the extractor. Remove the extractor, but do not separate it from the extractor spring or silicone insert. No further disassembly is required.

After cleaning, lubricate everything but the piston, gas plug and interior of the gas cylinder on the K2. Also, do not lube the gas tube and key on the K1A1. Re-assemble in the reverse order.

To facilitate all of the above, the Daewoo rifles come equipped with an OD belt pouch containing an M16 "toothbrush," chamber brush, long and short bore brushes, plastic oil bottle, nylon cord pull-through for the pistol-grip cleaning kit and five-piece steel cleaning rod. The rod tip has a useful point on the threaded end for adjusting front and rear sights, adjusting the gas regulator, and disassembly of the firing pin and extractor retaining pins. A canvas OD sling of U.S. WWII/Korean War vintage is also provided.

The operator's manual is well-illustrated and more clearly written than the English language manuals provided by Teutonic



tyrants like Steyr or Heckler & Koch.

Four Daewoo rifles were included in SOF's test and evaluation: a K2 and K1A1 in semiautomatic-only configuration and two selective-fire K1A1s. Stoeger-distributed commercial versions are marketed as Max I (K1A1) and Max II (K2)—a mimic of Singapore's grandiose Ultimax 100. The semiauto-only K1A1 and K2 carry a suggested list price of \$591.95 and \$608.95, respectively. Two full-auto rifles were provided by Kestrel International Corporation (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 809, Mesquite, Texas 75149). Kestrel specializes in the importation and sale of NFA weapons and devices to government and law-enforcement agencies and to selected Class 3 dealers who are actively engaged in police sales.

Kestrel also included two specimens of an interesting new development in the field of military sound suppressors. Designed specifically for the M16A1/A2 rifle series, the suppressors were developed by Knight's Armament Co. (Dept. SOF, 1306 29th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960) in response to a U.S. Navy RFP (Request For Proposal).

Desiring to supersede the Mk 2 Mod 0 (a Sionics type) sound suppressor developed during the Vietnam War, the Navy sought an off-the-shelf replacement. Fabricated from aluminum, the Mk 2 Mod 0 unit only

reduced the noise level by 12-15 db, which was enough to drop the muzzle blast below the level of the downrange sonic boom. This ballistic crack cannot be eliminated when the projectile's velocity exceeds the speed of sound (1,087.5 ft./sec. at 32 degrees F at sea level), as it certainly does in the case of M193 5.56mm NATO ball ammunition (3,300 ft./sec.). However, the objective here is to so diffuse the muzzle blast that the source cannot be easily located.

The Navy's requirements for the new suppressor were stringent. They included the following: 1) ability to take 200 rounds within a four-minute time span without any damage to the system; 2) a minimum 5,000-round life cycle; 3) absolutely no degradation whatever of the rifle's initial accuracy potential; 4) a 35 db drop in noise level; 5) a maximum weight of 2.5 pounds; 6) could not increase the overall length of the M16A1 rifle by more than 8 inches; 7) an overall o.d. (outside diameter) not greater than 1.75 inches; 8) installation and removal without tools; and — most important and difficult to achieve — 9) the ability to drain completely after submergence in water at 30 lbs. of pressure in no more than six seconds.

The Knight device met or exceeded every one of the stipulations. Development of the Knight suppressor consumed 50,000 rounds of ammunition. During the development stage it was discovered that any water drop-

lets left in the suppressor would be thrown back into the barrel by the first round of the burst. Impact with the succeeding round would blow out the barrel.

In addition, after 160 rounds of sustained fire, the suppressor will reach critical temperature (1,400 degrees F), at which point melt-down of the suppressor tube will occur. To circumvent self-destruction of the system, Knight's Armament Co. had to construct a suppressor within a suppressor. An interior unit absorbs the heat and does the work, while a thin outer sleeve holds all the components in proper alignment and acts as a superstructure.

It was also determined that the half-inch-by-28 M16 barrel threads could not adequately support the suppressor's mass (2.24 pounds) and thus a unique support collar was designed which rides 2.5 inches to the rear of the muzzle. By this means vibration was reduced, sagging eliminated, alignment perfected and the accuracy actually enhanced by one-half MOA (from 1.75 MOA to 1.5 MOA — average of all test rifles and all ammunition).

Four support bushings are constructed of aircraft aluminum and must be changed when fitting the unit to an M16A2 rifle. All other components in the Knight suppressor are fabricated from 304 stainless steel, which offers 10 times the corrosion resistance of the 400 series now commonly used to manufacture stainless-steel firearms. Four holes in the back of the suppressor permit the insertion of 5.56mm cases for use as a makeshift spanner wrench to assist in removing the unit when it's hot.

Rate-of-fire increase, normally experienced when a sound suppressor is installed on a selective-fire weapon, has been held to only 6.2 percent (the Navy RFP stipulated no more than 10 percent). This is, without doubt, the finest military-type sound suppressor fielded to date. The U.S. Navy has wisely type-classified the Knight Armament unit and the SEALs have added a fine piece of equipment to their inventory.

The Knight suppressor is available to U.S. government and law-enforcement agencies only.

Armed with two Knight suppressors (one with the collar removed to fit the short-barreled K1A1), the four Daewoo rifles and 1,000 rounds of Korean PMC and Lake City M193 ball ammunition, I commenced to pop caps and heat barrels. The two selective-fire K1A1 rifles had previously fired a collective total of 8,000 rounds. No malfunctions, except for one "bolt-over-base" stoppage, were experienced during our test and evaluation (I had sold all my defective M16 magazines at a local gun show two weeks earlier).

The K1A1 has a cyclic rate of about 750 rpm when set to the 'A' position. I had no trouble firing consistent two-shot bursts with the selector set to the full-auto mode, but the forearm overheated after just 150 rounds of intermittent burst-fire. The muzzle blast is fearsome — even with the XM177-E21 type muzzle device in place.



ABOVE: Accessory pack includes WWII/Korean War-vintage web sling and assorted cleaning equipment.

RIGHT: K1A1/K2 bolt hold-open release button is easily jarred when the rifle is set on its left side.

BELOW RIGHT: Rear sling swivel on the K1A1 all too often flies into the shooter's face when the weapon is fired, unless a sling is attached.



The Knight suppressor largely removed this annoyance and left us with only the bolt's clatter and the sound of the downrange sonic boom and projectile strike. The K1A1 muzzle device is effective in moderating muzzle climb when the ports are rotated to a 1 o'clock position (for a right-handed operator) and burst-fire hit probability is higher than most submachine guns at considerably longer ranges. The accuracy potential in semiautomatic mode is no better than five-to-six MOA. The K2 rifle turned in a three-to-four MOA performance overall.

Almost as compact as a submachine gun, and weighing but little more, the K1A1 has obvious applications for armored vehicle crews and special operations teams, if they are willing to accept the downside of the trade-off: increased muzzle blast and a disturbing increase in the flash signature. Some find short-barreled assault rifles especially unpalatable for the latter reason. I know several officers in the elite Golani Brigade of the IDF who turned in their Galil SARs for the standard-length Galil ARM after one too many compromises in position disclosure during night operations in Lebanon.

No striving for excellence initiated development of the K1A1 and K2 rifles. The South Korean government produced M16A1 rifles under Colt license at its elaborate Pusan arsenal from 1973 to 1982 for issuance to the Korean Armed Forces only.

This facility, which can produce everything from roll pins to refrigerators, was turned over to Daewoo Precision Industries in 1982. More than the 800,000 rifles authorized by the



MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the United States and the Republic of Korea were manufactured.

Colt is presently involved in litigation with ROK over alleged non-payment of royalties.

Casting a greedy eye, along with their competitors in Singapore and the Philippines (and now the PRC as well), to the lucrative Far East marketplace, two rifle systems were developed which took something from everyone, but hopefully not enough from anyone to invite another lawsuit.

In so doing, the Koreans have — using precious little innovation — copied both the best and a few of the worst features from the M16, AR-18, Stoner 63, FN FAL, Galil and Kalashnikov. The Russians have small cause to complain. Colt and Eugene Stoner have justified grounds for righteous indignation. This mildly interesting and generally well-made, but far from perfect, mixed bag from Korea does nothing to further the assault rifle's evolution. Daewoo rifles are currently phasing out the M16A1 in the Korean armed services. ❧

IRAN'S MILITARY SUICIDE

Iraq's Logistic Edge May Finally Turn the Tide

by David Segal

AFTER nearly five years of fighting and three years of suicidal "final offensives," Iran's armed forces are in serious trouble and might well disintegrate under real Iraqi pressure.

Iran has deteriorated since July 1982, when the army and hordes of Khomeini's devoted and fanatic Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards) drove the Iraqis from their soil and stood poised for the "final offensive" that would finish off the enemy and establish an Islamic Republic in Baghdad.

Three factors have now set the stage for an Iraqi offensive. They are: A steady quantitative and qualitative improvement in Iraq's military capabilities; Iran's chronic supply shortage and complete logistic chaos; and above all, Iran's destruction of its own army, navy and air force by purge and military incompetence.

It is bitter irony that Khomeini can boast of achieving a goal which has eluded Iraq for five years — the destruction of Iran's armed forces. Iran's ruling mullahs did this far more thoroughly than the Iraqis ever dreamed of with the most ruthless and sustained political purge of a military organization since Stalin's Red Army purges of 1936-1938.

Following its leading role in expelling the Iraqis from Iranian soil in 1981-82, the mullahs feared that the army, known for its pro-Shah sympathies, would become an anti-regime power center. In a stunning display of ingratitude (once the immediate Iraqi threat was over), they purged it.

MIDEAST SCHOLAR

David Segal, the first American journalist to expose Iraq's use of chemical weapons in the Gulf War (*Denver Post*, 27 January 1984), is a Denver-based free-lancer who writes extensively on the Middle East and military and intelligence matters. He is also a lecturer and is currently researching a book on the Iran-Iraq War.

Since August 1982, at least 5,000 of Iran's most capable military leaders have been arrested, imprisoned, executed or forced to flee into exile. Those remaining were placed under "spiritual guidance officers" in the same way Stalin made line officers subordinate to communist political commissars. Last year the process was completed when Iran's regular forces here subordinated to Pasdaran Commander Mohsen Rezaie, better known for his blind loyalty to Khomeini than for his military prowess.

Needless to say, tension between the regular military and the Pasdaran runs pretty high. According to one Iranian source whose information has been highly reliable in the past, there was full-scale fighting between the Pasdaran and the Iranian Navy on the Tunbs Islands in July 1984. The Greater and Lesser Tunbs are strategic islands in the Persian Gulf, about 675 miles south of Tehran and 60 miles west of the Strait of Hormuz.

Apparently, some naval gunners landed to take over gun positions from the Pasdaran, who fired on the sailors, telling them to leave the islands to "real fighters."

The sailors hastily withdrew to their base at Bandar Abbas, but soon returned with a destroyer and an Iranian Marine landing force. A fierce battle ensued in which the navy "killed



Iraqi infantrymen celebrate the capture of an Iranian police station during the early days of the war. Since then, the Iraqis have fallen back behind the old borders. Photo: Author's collection

every goddamn Pasdar [Guard] in sight," the source said.

Iran, of course, denied this report, but shortly thereafter, their official Islamic Republic News Agency reported speeches by ground forces commander Colonel Ali Sayyad Shirazi and Pasdaran Commander Mohsen Rezaie calling for "unity among all forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran." True or not, the story of the Pasdaran/navy intramurals was making the rounds of the Tehran Bazaar by the end of the month.

Another event that contributed to the demoralization of the regular army was the sacking of Iran's highest-ranking line officer, Brigadier Zaher Najad, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, in the middle of his carefully planned and successful limited offensive on the Meimak heights last October.

Apparently, Khomeini demanded that Najad continue the

attack against impossible odds. Najad refused. He was replaced by a devoted Khomeini loyalist, Colonel Ismail Sohrabi, who earned the title "Butcher of Kurdistan" for his brutal suppression of Iran's 1979-80 Kurdish revolt — a revolt that flared again in 1983 and has again become serious.

What the Iranian Army has to look forward to is indicated by "Operation Muslim ebn-Aquail," Iran's disastrous drive against the Iraqi city of Mandali in October 1982. Col. Sohrabi commanded that operation.

The result of all this is predictable: the army's command structure and unit morale has collapsed. Iran's regular officers are afraid to show initiative on anything without prior approval from the religious authorities and will voice no opposition to religious interference in military operations, no matter how

GAZ-66 DESTINATION: IRAQ

Sand blanketed the desert with monotony. Only a mysterious centipede of dusty green metal moved over the endless gritty sea.

Soon the crawling, armored worm resolved itself into a convoy of brand-new Soviet-made GAZ-66 trucks snaking over the desert dunes. All were in the 1- to 1½-ton range. I wondered where they were headed. After all, this was Jordan and since the Jordanians weren't that close to Moscow, where would they get trucks that new? As a few of them pulled up, I figured I would try and find out.

I was sitting at a wide spot in the road that passed for a rest stop near Khan ez Zabib when the trucks pulled up. Approaching a group of ten or 12 trucks, I noticed a lone driver sprawled in the cab of the lead truck. He spotted me.

"Are you Russian?" asked the Arab.

"No, American," I replied. He relaxed as soon as I said the word American.

I asked if he was Russian. He obviously wasn't, but that seemed like a good way to get the conversation rolling. It worked.

The driver was a Jordanian and he looked to be in his mid-twenties. His English was only passable and I had to strain to understand most of what he said. But my new-found Jordanian friend had plenty to say. He didn't like the truck — used too much gas, he said. As if to prove what he was saying, he walked over to the gas tank, pulled off the cap and looked in. Then he asked if I wanted a tour of the cab.

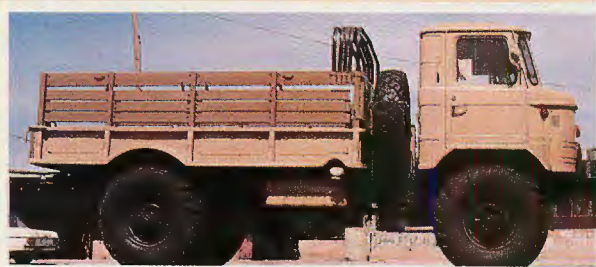
The inside was spartan. It had the usual gauges although I didn't see a fuel gauge. Controls for the tire pressure were particularly interesting. They were in the cab on the passenger side of the engine compartment which extended into the cab and made a barrier between the driver and passenger seats. From inside the cab, the driver could vary the tire pressure to suit the terrain.

Workmanship on the trucks was surprisingly good — the doors fit well and the sandy green paint job showed no runs — a characteristic of many Soviet vehicles. Half of the trucks had winches mounted to the front end and all of them had oil coolers fitted between the grill and radiator.

Opening the hood, the driver and I peered into the truck's guts. It had a six-cylinder diesel engine, two fuel tanks (one on each side) and constant-velocity U-joints — a unique feature on a ComBloc vehicle.

Needless to say, my brain was in high gear. What were these trucks up to? The Jordanian driver was wearing civilian clothes, but he also had a Jordanian Army belt around his waist. Was he a military driver? I knew better than to ask. I didn't see any harm in asking where the convoy was going though. The driver didn't see any problem with that either. He answered without batting an eye.

"Iraq." The destination surprised me, but I figured I had pushed my luck far enough. A Jordanian jail held no attraction for me. Anyway, my bus was preparing to pull out of the rest



Soviet-made GAZ-66. These trucks were brand-new and on their way to Iraq. Photo: James Dawson



stop so I said goodbye to the driver.

Back on the bus, my mind took in all the little things that hadn't meant anything before. Now, they all fell into place. The two-lane road that ploughed through the never-ending Jordanian desert was being widened into a four-lane divided highway. Why? The better to ferry military convoys over the desert.

The truck convoy was also moving out and I counted at least 100 trucks on the road. Many of them were normal semi trucks carrying crates measuring 25 feet by about six feet. There aren't too many military items that fit into a box that size, but one of them is a surface-to-air missile. Too bad I never got to peek inside to be sure.

As we headed off in the opposite direction, I realized that I would never know exactly what was going on with that truck convoy. The Jordanians aren't that cozy with the Russians, but then again, there is a market for arms in the Iran-Iraq War. And what better place to get those weapons than Moscow?

No matter where those weapons were headed, there is war all over the Middle East. They would soon find a home.

— James Dawson

See this month's Bulletin Board for additional information on indirect sales of howitzers from Austria to Iraq . . . with Jordan as go-between.

— The Editors

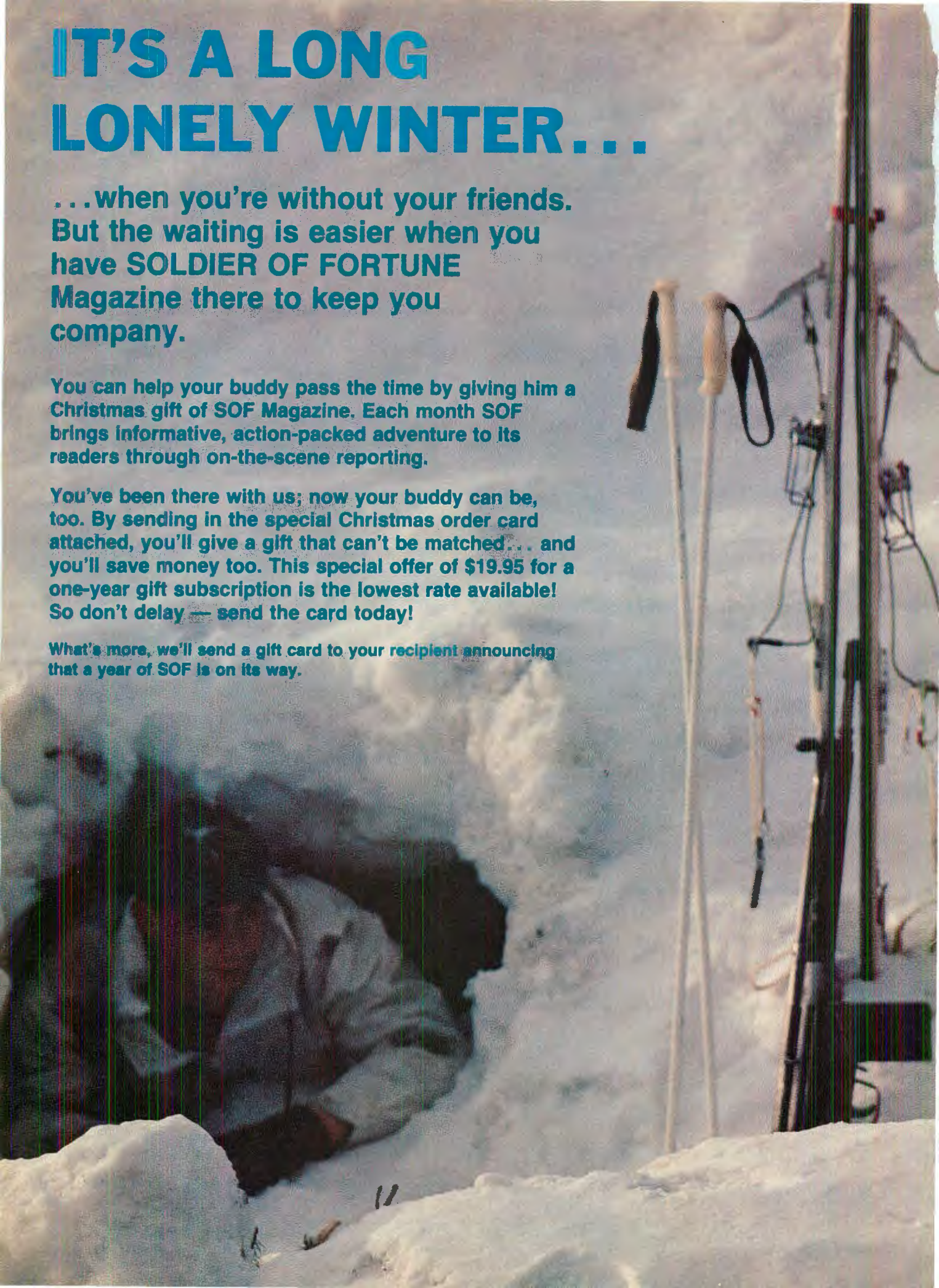
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harmful.

Before the 1979 revolution, the army's operational unit was the brigade or, occasionally, the division, and it was capable of extended and sophisticated combined-arms operations. Today, the Pasdaran barely operate on the battalion level, and the only combined-arms operations they are involved in are the ones the Iraqis mount.

This is not to say that the Iranians can no longer mount any large-scale operations. In their last major effort, Operation Kheibar II in March, Iraqi sources say Iran used 11 divisions (three army and eight Pasdaran), or about 130,000 men. Their actual *operational units*, however, were 500- to 800-man task forces. Iran's present command structure, training level and logistics simply won't support larger operational groups, with the exception of a few elite units which have been carefully hoarded and kept out of the fighting.

The army's Maashad Division, for example, is believed to have most of Iran's remaining operational U.S. and British tanks and to be capable of sustained brigade-level operations despite a serious shortage of spare parts, tank treads and self-propelled artillery.

But the shortage of replacement parts for American and Western equipment is hurting Iran very badly, especially in the Air Force. Khomeini's virulently anti-Western policies led to an ongoing Western arms embargo. Only France — also an Iraqi arms supplier — continues to supply the Iranians.

Given the difficulty of obtaining hard information from Iran these days, even the best estimates of military strength are "scientifically calculated wild-assed guesses," but a quick comparison of present and pre-war figures clearly shows Iran's dramatic deterioration. The base figures come from the *Military Balance*, but I have modified them with more recent information from my own sources in Iran and elsewhere.

The Iranian Air Force is hard hit by the Western arms embargo. Before the war it had an estimated 456 American-made combat aircraft, including 77 F-14 Tomcats. Only about 70 of these are still operational, including three Tomcats. [According to SOF sources, U.S. counterintelligence has been bird-dogging a succession of neutral-country and Third World export agents who have offered premium prices for the vital "Black Box" F-14 flight computer.]

Iran's armor is in nearly as bad shape. When the war began, Iran reportedly had 1,735 main battle tanks, all Western (875 Chieftain, 460 M60A1, 400 M47/48), using three main gun calibers (122, 105 and 90mm). All of these, even the ancient M47s, could match or outclass Iraq's Soviet-made tanks, due to their superior Western ranging and gun-laying systems.

According to the *Military Balance*, Iran is now down to



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein visits the front. The men wearing stocking caps are Popular Army reservists while the one with the armband is a military policeman. Hussein's frontline visits have boosted his popularity with the troops. Photo: Author's collection



INCOMING



Next month in SOF:

- ARGENTINE COMMANDOS IN THE FALKLANDS — the other side of the story. A blow-by-blow description of Falklands ops by an Argentine commando officer who was on the ground.
- SALVO NAVAL COMMANDO COURSE — Despite physical rigor and psychological stress, SOF's Steve Salisbury survives the "Three Days of Hell" and becomes the first gringo ever to complete Salvadoran Naval Commando Basic Training.
- ISRAELI SEA PATROL — Follow the Israeli Navy on patrol in hostile waters, as they comb the length of the dangerous Lebanese coast on Israeli gunboats.
- ARDE UPDATE — Dr. John returns to Nicaragua and helps pick up the pieces after Pastora's fall.
- WEAPONS T&E — Rhodesia's Spider counterambush system, Belgium's FNC, Brazil's Taurus 9mm and Silent Partner's multiple-projectile pistol ammo.
- MAD MIKE'S OWN STORY — Part II: The Word on the Seychelles from the CO: Col. Hoare continues his history.
- EAST GERMAN NAVY — SOF's look at a little-known navy that will be pivotal in any European confrontation.
- JOURNEY INTO AFGHANISTAN — An American medcap mission to aid the mujahideen.
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1,000 operating tanks (100 T-54/55, 50 T-62, 100 T-72, 200 M47/48, 250 M60A1 and 300 *Chieftain*), 750 of them Western, compared to Iraq's estimated 4,820 Soviet-type tanks. My best information gives Iran only about 400 operational Western tanks (150 *Chieftain*, 150 M60A1, 100 M47/48), but puts the Soviet types at about 550 instead of 250. The extra 300, almost entirely T-54/55s and their Chinese T-59/69 clones, give Iran only about 950 runners.

The reader will note that Iran's armored corps has gone from a manageable three main-gun rounds to the logistical nightmare of six separate calibers (90, 100, 105, 115, 120 and 125mm). Iraqi logistics, by contrast, have been simplified from five different tank rounds at one point (85, 100, 105, 115 and 125mm for the T-34, T-54/55, AMX-30, T-62 and T-72 respectively) to only two (100 and 115mm for the T-54/55 and T-62) with some minor demand for the 125mm T-72 round.

The Iraqis seem to have finally grasped an obvious fact which the Iranians still haven't figured out: having a lot of tanks isn't very helpful if you can't supply them and keep them operational. In pursuit of better maintainance, supply and operational efficiency, Iraq phased out the T-34 and French AMX-30. Rumor has it the new Soviet T-72s will soon follow.

It was only to be expected that Iraq would phase out its T-34 museum-pieces (that venerable Soviet tank first saw action in 1941), but Iraq's own experience has shown the AMX-30 and T-72 to be superior to the T-54/55s and T-62s they've decided to standardize. Still, the AMX-30 and T-72 are both expensive and in short supply compared to the plentiful T-54/55 and T-62, and most T-54/55 and T-62 parts are interchangeable. But above all, furnishing ammunition for the AMX-30 and T-72 complicated Iraqi logistics, so out they went.

Significantly, Iraq's recently acquired 350-odd Chinese T-69s and the Romanian M-77s are, to borrow a term from computerese, "T-54/55 compatible."

Iran's Secret Arms Suppliers

Iran's major problem is compensating for Iraq's overwhelming edge in war materiel, but given her bad relations with the West and the Soviets, there is little hope of matching Iraq. This does not, of course, stop them from trying.

Iran goes to desperate lengths to buy spare parts for U.S. equipment on the black market, but the volume needed to fight a war just isn't available from such sources. In 1980-81, when an Iraqi victory seemed probable, Israel sold Iran spare parts for U.S.-made weapons, vehicles and aircraft, but that largely stopped by 1983.

Recent footage of Iranian troops in action instantly shows two things: most of the troops are Pasdaran — not regulars — and most of their equipment is Soviet and Chinese.

Since the Soviets support Iraq, where does Iran get all those T-72s, T-62s, T-54/55s, AK-47s, RPG-7s, BTR-50s and 60s, not to mention Scud-B long-range missiles? Apparently, from Libya and Syria, whose leaders

are mortal enemies of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein and Iran's only Arab allies.

Libya and Syria in turn get their weapons from the Soviet Union, which appears to be keeping up arms ties to Iran through these surrogates. It is clear that Syrian T-72s and Libyan Scud missiles could not be sent to Iran without Soviet consent — and the Soviets show no signs of displeasure. In fact, Iran just signed a \$133.3 million agreement with East Germany, trading oil for "technical assistance," while Pasdaran commanders and Iranian pilots are reportedly training in East Germany and Bulgaria.

Such duplicity-by-surrogate lets the Soviets keep a finger in both pies and guarantees that, no matter who wins the war, Iran will depend on Soviet equipment for years to come.

The Iranians, of course, realize this and are getting whatever arms they can from China and North Korea, hoping that if they must depend on Soviet arms, they won't have to depend on Soviet goodwill to get them.

Reliable sources say Iran signed a \$1.45 billion oil-for-arms agreement with China in March 1984, with deliveries starting April 1985. An additional \$4 billion agreement was reportedly signed last 26 November, during an official Chinese state visit to Tehran, but information on the alleged deal wasn't available. It is hard to believe the amount was as large as \$4 billion, yet it seems that some sort of major arms-for-oil agreement was arrived at. Still, even the \$1.45 billion exchange qualifies as the largest single arms export deal in Chinese history, and \$1.45 billion will buy a lot more Chinese equipment than the more sophisticated but higher priced Western items.


The Chinese, of course, deny sending arms to anybody. An Iranian spokesman, however, merely said Iran leaves official comment on trade with China to the Chinese. [SOF has direct information that the Chinese are aggressively seeking foreign — especially Third World — markets for a re-styled Kalashnikov-action small-arms system available in 7.62mm ComBloc, 5.56 NATO and 7.62 NATO.]

Whatever the denials, Chinese T-59/69 tanks are showing up in Iranian units, while *Aviation Week* and other publications say that Iran is buying Chinese F-6 fighters (improved MiG-19s). But while the tanks have shown up on the battlefield, there's no sign of the planes.

The Iraqis carefully insist Iran's Chinese equipment comes from North Korea, not China. In fact, Iraq broke diplomatic relations with North Korea because of their aid to Iran. A more cynical observer, however, could note that Iraq's reluctance to condemn China might have something to do with the fact that the Iraqis buy China's small arms and MiG-19, MiG-21, T-54/55 and PT-76 clones themselves.

The Tactics of Jihad

As much as Iran needs Chinese equipment, their major weakness is neither men nor equipment, but rather a complete lack of ideas



An Iraqi crew mans a Soviet ZSU-23-4 self-propelled anti-aircraft gun. It has an 800 to 1,000 round-per-minute rate of fire and can be depressed to minus 7 degrees for use against troops and light armor. Photo: Author's collection

on how men and equipment should be used. In short, Iran lacks any reasoned tactical doctrine. The Chinese do not, and Iran would do well to be more concerned with China's tactical ideas than their materiel.

Chinese infantry tactics are so well-suited to the ill-trained, ill-equipped hordes of Pasdaran which have replaced the Shah's regular army, that one might almost think they were invented with Iran in mind.

Like the Chinese forces of 1950, the Pasdaran are brave and obey orders, no matter how suicidal. They also outnumber the Iraqi forces by nearly three to one, a higher ratio than the Chinese achieved in Korea.

As were the Chinese in Korea, the Pasdaran are simple, illiterate peasants who lack much of the heavy and sophisticated equipment taken for granted by modern armies. They lack radios, tanks and artillery, and they are inept in using what little they have. They lack mechanized supply systems and vast stockpiles, and carry most of their food and ammunition on their backs. They move only as fast as their legs will carry them and can't shift rapidly to meet a changing situation or exploit a breakthrough.

The favorite Chinese tactics, however, worked with these limitations by exploiting enemy weaknesses. Their straight "leg infantry" operations used a V-formation, called *Hachi-Shiki* or "One-Point-Two-Sides," to pin the enemy in place and then close about him from both flanks. Meanwhile, other forces would infiltrate the enemy position and head for the rear to cut off or delay reinforcements.

These simple tactics were perfectly suited to the broken mountainous terrain of North Korea, and could be equally devastating in the mountains of Kurdistan against the mechanized, road-bound Iraqis, if the mullahs saw fit to adopt them. But despite Iran's desperate lack of materiel, the *potential* resources for an Iranian victory are there if they are properly used. Fortunately for Iraq, Iranian military doctrine is pure Jihad right out of the Seventh Century.

Iranian objectives are nearly always geographical ("Cut that road. Take that hill. Capture that town"), rather than operational ("Disrupt the enemy's command and control. Knock out his artillery and support units. Threaten his retreat and supply"), and Iranian tactics are nearly always direct ("Attack frontally and reinforce the areas where you've bogged down"), rather than indirect ("Infiltrate and hit the enemy's flanks. Reinforce success, not failure").

Even with religious fanaticism and a three-to-one manpower advantage, such tactics are doomed against dug-in Iraqi positions with interlocking fields of fire, minefields to channel enemy attacks, pre-registered artillery, mobile reserves and tactical air support.

To make matters worse, Iranian tactics call for hordes of Pasdaran to precede their armor and achieve the initial breakthrough for the tanks to exploit. While not bad in theory, these tactics are disastrous in practice.

First of all, the Pasdaran seldom achieve a breakthrough, and Iranian armor generally winds up being used piecemeal on unfavorable ground to support the infantry's frontal attacks, or not being used at all.

Secondly, the rare occasions the Pasdaran do break through Iraqi forward positions are generally entrapments designed to lure Iranian armor onto concealed anti-tank guns, wire-guided anti-tank missiles, and minefields where their advance is interdicted and pounded by

Iraqi air power and cut up by hard-hitting Iraqi mobile reserves attacking from the flanks.

Apparently, the Persians haven't learned a thing since Alexander the Great opened his phalanx to Darius' chariots — the better to engulf and slaughter them.

Iran's Manpower Mobilization

Given Iran's available arms sources there is simply no way, short of a Soviet policy change, they can hope to match the quantity and quality of Iraq's equipment, and the Iranians show no sign of adopting a tactical doctrine more suited to their limited means. Thus, the only way Iran has left to compensate

for Iraq's material superiority is with superior manpower, and in this a maximum effort is being made.



A central fact of this war is that Iran has 42.5 million people to Iraq's 14.9 million. The Iraqis, with about 1.3 million men under arms, are already fully mobilized, but the Iranians are only now tapping their manpower reserves.

Sources in Iran say that boys as young as 12 are being dragooned into the Revolutionary Guards, now over 500,000 strong. These young boys, called *Sar Allah* or "warriors of Allah," are used in the first wave of Iranian attacks to draw Iraqi fire and clear enemy minefields, often by the effective but fatal expedient of exploding them with their bodies.

In Iran, where 44 percent of the population is under 14, young boys are a significant source of "manpower." The Iranian Army drafts 16-year-olds, and there is now a crash effort to utilize other manpower pools more effectively.

First hints of Iran's new conscription policy surfaced last 12 December in *Kayhan*, Tehran's official daily, during an interview with Iran's national conscription chief, Colonel Khalil Razmju. After that reports poured in from *Kayhan*, Iranian opposition sources, the official Islamic Republic News Agency and monitored Iranian broadcasts. By now a pretty good picture has emerged.

According to these sources, the maximum service age has been raised from 42 to 45. This alone makes about 300,000 more men eligible as cannon fodder. Additionally, all men born between 1958-1965 who haven't served in the armed forces (number unknown) are now being called up. "No one will be excused from service any longer, even if we have a manpower surplus," Razmju said.

Certain professionals are forbidden to leave the country without permission, even if they have completed military service. This includes all doctors, veterinarians, medical personnel and retired military officers. Additionally all Iranian males living abroad, including students and permanent residents of foreign countries (an estimated one million men, most of whom oppose the Khomeini regime), must register for the Iranian draft. Very few of these are expected to actually report for duty.

Student exemptions have stopped. "All medically fit males will have to complete their military service before they are allowed to continue their education," said Razmju. Medical students, however, may finish their studies before being drafted, an exception which accurately reflects Iran's desperate shortage of trained medical personnel.

In a related development, Colonel Ibrahim Kamalvand, conscription chief of Tehran's Second Military District, announced that even serious medical exemptions will be subject to review for five years before they become permanent.

Obviously, the Iranians are worried. With nearly three times Iraq's population, why are they scraping the bottom of their manpower barrel . . . and why now?

One reason is internal. More forces are desperately needed to contain increasingly serious anti-government revolts in Kurdistan and Baluchistan Provinces and growing unrest in Iran's major cities. Also, growing tension with Afghanistan has resulted in several serious border incidents.

But the graver concern is external. Iran fears another Iraqi invasion. After seven major Iranian "final offensives" and a score of minor ones over three years, a successful Iraqi offensive would almost certainly break Iran's morale and possibly cause the collapse of the Khomeini regime, bringing an end to the war.

In January, Tehran created a new force called Basidj Mostazafin, or "Mobilization of the Poor Masses," which absorbs the semi-independent Basidj Mostazafin and Hezbollah militias and puts them under direct Revolutionary Guards command. All fit males not serving in the regular armed forces or Revolutionary Guards, including those too old for regular military duty, will serve in the new organization which, Tehran says, will number over three million men.

Of course, the only conceivable function of this para-military rabble, besides providing cannon fodder for another foredoomed offensive, is fighting Iraqi invaders in the streets or Iranian

cities. Since Basidj Mostazafin is organized on a local city-and-village basis, that, apparently, is exactly what it is expected to do, and the odds are good that it'll have to do it in the very near future.

The Coming Iraqi Offensive

Iraq's state-controlled media have been preparing public opinion for another invasion of Iran for over six months. Last December, *Al-Thawra*, organ of Iraq's ruling Ba'ath Party, said: "The initiation of a new aggression on Iraq will be met with a devastating counteroffensive. The time has come to retaliate and crush the heads of the aggressors."

A particularly clear indication of Iraqi intentions recently appeared in *Al-Yarmouk*, the official daily of the Iraqi Defense Ministry. With typical bombast, *Al-Yarmouk* described the current lull in the fighting as "the silence that precedes the hurricane," and, in less ambiguous language, said that Iraq is "preparing a big military surprise for Iran that will bring peace by means of weaponry." The daily said that the exact time of Iraq's "surprise" is up to the political leadership, but it "will not be long in coming."

As most military people know, announcing your offensives in advance, either by public proclamation or week-long artillery bombardment, went out of fashion with World War I. That sort of practice is a textbook example of what made the Great War not-so-great for frontline soldiers.

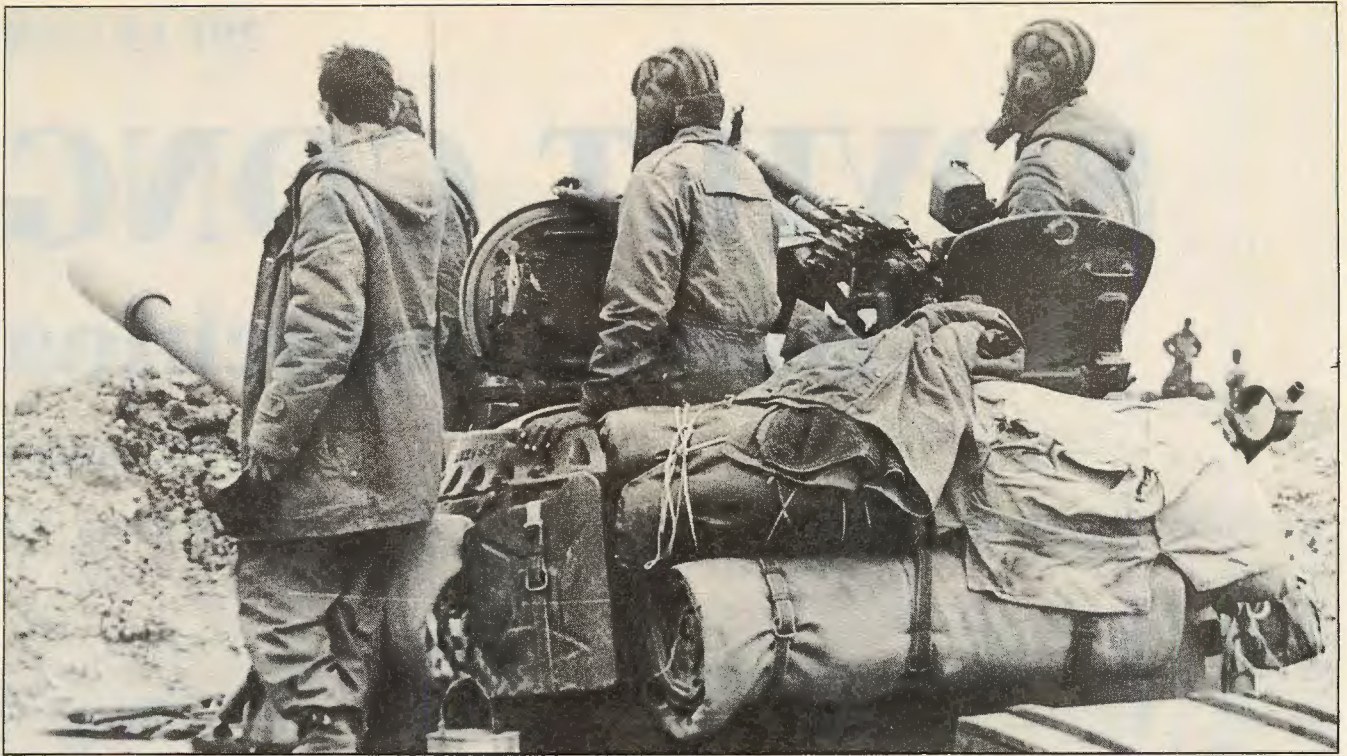
The Iraqis certainly appear to be ready. Their operations have increased in scope and sophistication as their equipment, training and manpower have improved over the last three years. The Iraqi Army has increased its manpower from about 200,000 at the start of the war to an all-time high of over 600,000 today. They have also mobilized another 650,000 territorial reservists in the Popular Army. Many Popular Army units have chalked up a lot of recent combat experience by repulsing seven major Iranian offensives, and some are every bit as good as the regulars although less well-equipped and less mobile.

Under the command of Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadhan, the Popular Army functions almost as a Ba'ath Party militia, but it is subordinate to Chief of Staff General Adnan Khairallah and the regular Army command, not the other way around. Regular officers train and command its units. This makes a big difference in combat performance and is the main reason why the Popular Army, so similar to Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards in theory, is an enormously superior fighting force in practice.

Unlike Iran's fearful and uncertain regulars, the Iraqi armed forces have the full and enthusiastic support of their government. President Saddam Hussein often tours the front in military uniform, taking credit for Iraq's defensive victories.

Iraqi Popular Army troops recapture an Iranian position. The soldier at center shouldered an RPG-7, a popular "bunker-busting" weapon. Photo: Author's collection





Dug-in Iraqi T-55 is positioned to give fire support to Iraqi positions. The turret-mounted heavy machine gun is used against Iranian massed attacks. Photo: Author's collection

While brilliant and successful Iraqi commanders are seldom treated as heroes, no one interferes with their work.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Air Force, with 38,000 men and about 580 combat aircraft to oppose Iran's pathetic 70 remaining operational planes, has total air superiority and plenty of real combat experience.

Counting the regular forces, Popular Army, Frontier Guards, and about 10,000 non-Iraqi Arab "volunteers" of the Qadissiyeh Legion, Iraq has managed to muster nearly 1.3 million men from a population of 14.9 million. This is even more impressive when one remembers that 48 percent of Iraq's population is under 15.

Iraq has also dramatically increased its unit mobility, particularly in the six armored and five mechanized divisions which constitute its mobile reserve (and cutting edge in any future offensive). With over 3,200 non-tank armored fighting vehicles (AFVs), the Iraqi Army outclasses the Iranians who have, at most, about 1,200 AFVs for a force twice the size.

Iraq's recent build-up appears to be the result of a February 1984 Soviet decision to actively help Iraq win the war. After five years of having their overtures for an alliance emphatically rejected by Iran's anti-communist theocracy, the Soviets appear to have decided that they cannot have any substantial influence in Iran as long as the mullahs rule. That situation can, of course, be remedied by an Iraqi victory which would leave the Soviets free to manipulate the resulting power vacuum in neighboring Iran.

Among the items the Soviets reportedly shipped to Iraq in February and March of 1984 were TU-22 Blinder bombers, MiG 23/27 Flogger-series ground attack planes, SS-12 Scaleboard surface-to-surface missiles (SSM), Mi-24 helicopter gunships, large numbers of T-62 tanks and BMP mechanized infantry combat vehicles, and huge quantities of munitions. These shipments still continue on a reduced scale.

Interestingly, the BMPs and T-62s are reportedly equipped for operations in a chemical environment, while the munitions allegedly included cluster bombs, fuel-air explosives, and, according to some sources, chemical munitions.

Israeli and French sources both believe Iraq has obtained fuel-air explosives from the Soviet Union. These munitions

release a fine aerosol of volatile chemicals over a wide area, which is then ignited by a second charge, causing lethal shock waves.

Jane's Defense Weekly reported the Soviets using 500-kilo (1,100-pound) fuel-air bombs, delivered by Su-17 fighter bombers, on Afghan resistance fighters. These are reported to leave craters "30 feet in diameter and 18 feet deep," killing people and animals in a quarter-mile radius. "A 1,000-pound bomb could blow down a towerblock [high-rise]. One or two big ones could destroy an airfield and kill everyone on it."

Iraq claims the Iraqis are getting another potent Soviet offensive weapon, the highly accurate SS-21 SSM, whose estimated 75-mile range is nearly twice that of the less-accurate Frog-7 it replaces. For once, an Iranian charge of acquisition of offensive weapons appears to be more than simple paranoia: in a 30 May 1984 press conference, then-Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens made the same charges.

If there is an Iraqi offensive, it should be borne in mind that about 1,500 Iraqi AFVs (BMP, BRDM, BTR-50 and BTR-60) — as well as about 100 PT-76 light tanks — are fully capable of amphibious and riverine assault operations. This can be a very handy feature when you are separated from the enemy by the Shatt al-Arab.

Perhaps the most important thing Iraq has received since February 1984, however, is a steady supply of ZIL 131 and Ural 375 trucks, as well as some older ZIL 157s, from the Soviet Union and its East Bloc allies. These Soviet vehicles are fairly reliable, easy to maintain (if parts are available), can operate under primitive conditions and have good cross-country capabilities. More importantly, without trucks the Iraqis would be unable to sustain any offensive operations.

While the new trucks have been used to marginally increase unit mobility, they are absolutely vital to Iraq's logistic services if advancing troops expect to get any food, fuel, ammunition or medical supplies during an offensive. Iraq's original invasion of Iran in 1980 bogged down when Iraqi logistics proved inadequate to supply even a 30-mile advance.

Iran's situation is even worse. Monitored Iranian radio broadcasts keep appealing for civilian trucks and drivers to volunteer to bring supplies to the front. This mobilization of civilian transport can barely maintain the Iranian troops in their present positions and stockpile for an occasional limited attack.

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SOVIET CONG

Ivan in Indochina

by F.C. Brown



TIRE-TREAD sandals and spray-painted slogans don't win guerrilla wars. It takes guns, guts and — most importantly — guidance. During the Vietnam War, the North Vietnamese had no shortage of any of those things. Soviet weapons wheeled down the Ho Chi Minh Trail by parades of VC and peasant labor armed the communists in the South, but who were their advisers? If American advisers were high on the skyline, then where were the Russians? And since the U.S. got into the war with advisers did the Soviets begin the same way?

Moscow supplied meddlers along with their munitions, and Soviet advisers in Indochina did a lot more than support Uncle Ho's "Rice Workers' Paradise" from 1960 to 1975. Besides the technicians and farm advisers who labored inside North Vietnam, there were also Soviet military advisers at

Elite NVA commandos who worked the tri-border area, 1971-72. This photo was removed from the body of an NVA soldier killed during the course of a clandestine U.S. mission inside Laos. Photo: S.L. Stanton collection

work deep inside Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. They took an active role in planning operations, occasionally participated in combat and took casualties at the hands of U.S. and ARVN troops. Soviet advisers were also directly responsible for the deaths of a number of American soldiers.

Soviet military presence in Indochina reaches back to the early days of the Viet Minh. During their nine-year struggle against the French, senior Viet Minh commanders had a number of Soviet advisers attached to their staffs. Although their primary function was advising on tactics and

overseeing USSR-supplied logistics, they occasionally came under fire from French Union Forces. Two Soviet officers were rumored to have been killed in 1951 near the Plain of Reeds, while another is said to have been mortally wounded near Ben Tre, in the Mekong Delta.

These early Soviet advisers may also have participated in interrogations of French POWs. They were said to devote special attention to Foreign Legionnaires of Eastern European extraction. Soviet advisers also lent their considerable expertise toward developing sophisticated propaganda designed to induce Legionnaires to defect.

All that came to an end with the signing of the Geneva Accords in 1954. The Soviet advisers were pulled out of the field and reassigned to what became North Vietnam or to the People's Republic of China. But not for long, though.

By 1960, Soviet advisers were again active inside South Vietnam. The reports remained unconfirmed until two years later when ARVN intelligence analysts received "hard" information from a reliable source that a small Soviet delegation was visiting "liberated" hamlets in the eastern Mekong Delta.

Hoping to catch a red hand in the cookie jar, South Vietnamese troops immediately launched a cordon-and-search operation in the suspected area but the VC, alerted through their local intelligence net, spirited the Soviets out of the danger zone. One U.S. officer conversant with the operation confirmed that the ARVNs missed the Soviets "by a matter of minutes." In addition to Soviet flags and propaganda materials printed in the Soviet Union, ARVN troops also seized still photos and movie film showing the Soviets, with a heavily armed VC contingent, touring the countryside.

In May 1965, a young VC soldier who defected to the government side told interrogators he had met a Russian in a VC stronghold the previous month. Nguyen Van Ton, 20, gave the Russian's name as "Ivan Esnot," and said he had been ordered to escort the Russian on military operations involving VC forces. Ton also said the Russian was involved in propaganda work when he had met him in the Duong Minh Chau secret zone, a portion of what the U.S. called War Zone C.

Aside from the Russian, Ton reported that he had also encountered Wilfred Burchett, the well-known Australian communist who assisted in fabricating "germ warfare" charges against U.S. fliers during the Korean War. Burchett was known to have close ties to the Soviet KGB — indeed, in later years it was widely rumored that he was a de facto KGB agent — and he later authored a number of books and articles on Vietnam. In addition, Ton also told of a French woman, "Madeleine Riffaud," who was traveling with VC forces.

Direct U.S. forces contact with these shadowy Soviet advisers was rare. But some Navy SEALs were directly involved in the killing of a Soviet adviser in a remote area of Kien Giang Province in 1967. According to one of the participants in the operation, the SEALs were running static surveillance along a canal reputed to be a major enemy resupply route. Late in the afternoon of the second day, several enemy sampans were spotted moving down the canal. Sitting in the bow of the lead sampan was a large, burly Caucasian. He sported a full beard, was attired in what appeared to be a khaki uniform, and cradled an AK in his arms. The SEALs watched in dismay from no more than 40 to 50 meters as the boat slid by.

That sixth sense which seems to develop in men subjected to battle kicked in — the VC sensed something was wrong. As they moved past the reeds where the SEALs were hiding, they slowed and began cautiously scanning the area. Believing discovery to be imminent, the senior SEAL gave the com-



U.S. Navy SEALs were known for their covert missions during the Vietnam War. On at least one occasion, they killed a Soviet adviser who stumbled into an ambush. Photo: Author's collection

mand to open fire. The burly Caucasian was among the first to be hit.

One of the SEALs later told what he saw. "He took a couple of hits in the chest and toppled over into the water. A couple of VC immediately jumped into the canal to assist him." Outnumbered and outgunned, the SEALs broke off the engagement.

Back at their base in Rach Gia, the SEALs filed their report, and all were questioned in depth about the unknown Caucasian.

"We were more than curious," said one SEAL participant in recounting the events later. "It's not every day you encounter a Caucasian in a boatload of VC way out in the boonies." Several days later they were debriefed again — this time by a NILO (Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer) representative. He confirmed that the Caucasian had in fact been a Russian, and that he had been killed. The SEALs were cautioned the incident was highly classified, and instructed to refrain from discussing the matter further.

Former Viet Cong continued to confirm the presence of Soviet advisers in the field. Prior to his defection in 1970, Bui Cong Tuong was a high-ranking official who served as propaganda chief for Kien Hoa Province. The communist infrastructure thought Tuong's defection was serious — VC Liberation Radio promptly labeled him a traitor, and sentenced him to death in absentia.

Tuong had succeeded in building one of the strongest communist infrastructures in South Vietnam, and during his nocturnal travels was always accompanied by crack VC assassination squads, ready to liquidate "traitors" and "reactionaries."

Tuong was also responsible for the security arrangements for foreign communist advisers and visitors. In 1967 he provided an escort for five Russian officers making an inspection tour of "liberated zones" in Kien Hoa. Tuong himself traveled with the Soviet delegation acting as host, guide and guard. The Russian visit lasted 12 days,

after which the Soviets were covertly moved to another area. Tuong noted later that the leader of the Soviets was a one-star general, and said there was also "a captain, who taught me Ukrainian folk dances."

The VC in Kien Hoa were never told how the Russians entered South Vietnam, but most assumed they had crossed over from Cambodia. During their stay in Kien Hoa, the Soviets traveled mostly at night, moving from hamlet to hamlet with a heavy security cordon. Tuong described them as wearing black pajamas and noted they were "very friendly and polite." During their stay in Kien Hoa, the Soviets even came under fire briefly while shooting footage of VC units in action against U.S. and ARVN troops. Tuong was told the film was for a documentary the Russians were producing, to be entitled "Mekong Wave."

Another prominent communist defector who confirmed the presence of Soviet advisers inside South Vietnam was Dr. Dang Tan, an official of the North Vietnamese Defense Ministry who defected in Pleiku Province in September 1969. Tan was initially kept under tight wraps by American and ARVN officials, but was finally allowed to go public in the spring of 1971. Speaking at a press conference, Tan told correspondents from a number of nations that not only Russian, but Cuban, Chinese and North Korean "military strategists" were actively advising communist forces fighting throughout South Vietnam. He stressed that on a number of occasions he personally saw these "foreign communist advisers" at various stations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail while traveling through Laos in 1967. Tan stated that over the course of the next two years, while working as a "high-level cadre" in Pleiku Province, he personally saw "four or five groups of foreign military strategists, each [group] numbering three to five men." He said the foreigners always carried arms, invariably wore the standard black pajamas, and were always accompanied by "large security forces" of North Vietnamese troops.

Asked if some of the foreign advisers he saw might have been Americans, Tan responded: "No. Hanoi propaganda says

American GIs are fighting with the VC/NVA, but I have never seen this with my own eyes. The men I saw were Russians, Cubans, Chinese, North Koreans. . . They came south to study the battlefields, to study the situation, and see how they could help. I have seen them deep in South Vietnamese territory. I have heard them speaking in their native tongues."

Firearms expert and author J. David Truby of Indiana, Pennsylvania also wrote of Soviets inside South Vietnam, test-firing the then-secret Dragunov sniper rifle against American troops.

One official report obtained by Truby from an intelligence source notes: "A Soviet sniper rifle, probably the SVD [Dragunov], fired and seconded by Caucasians in native dress. . ." was used against U.S. troops in 1971. Truby's source indicated that the Dragunov was not permitted outside the USSR unless accompanied by Soviet officers, including an intelligence analyst.

Truby also told of another report in which a Soviet firing team, dressed in Vietnamese garb, operated in the Khe Sanh area. The report stated that "they [the Soviets] killed at least one Marine, and wounded a few more in 1968."

Major Len Campbell, an active duty regular currently serving with NATO forces in Europe, also recalls tales of Soviets serving with enemy units. During his 1970-71 tour along the Cambodian border in IV Corps, Campbell was assigned as a subsector S-2 officer.

"Sure, we heard lots of rumors about it back then," he said recently, adding that many of the reports were backed up by eyewitness sightings. "We also intercepted a lot of Russian voice transmissions, many coming from across the border in Takeo Province [Cambodia]. One of our NCOs, a sergeant first class, was a Polish fellow who had grown up in Russian-occupied Poland and spoke fluent Russian. He monitored many of the intercepts and said the traffic usually involved tactical matters and troop maneuvers with heavy use of code words. He told us the language was so pure that the broadcasts could only have been made by a native Russian. On one occasion our guy even cut into the transmission and spoke in Russian with the guy on the other end. They recognized the ruse, however, and after a curt 'Dasvidanya, Amerikanski' contact was abruptly broken off."

Another former Viet Cong official, now living in exile in Paris, recently told of the experiences of a Soviet delegation inside South Vietnam who were caught up in a surprise B-52 raid — with somewhat embarrassing results.

Truong Nhu Tang, one of the founders of the National Liberation Front and a personal acquaintance of Ho Chi Minh, told reporters of an occasion in the late 1960s when several Soviets were visiting a VC headquarters complex deep in the jungle. On this occasion the B-52s struck with little warning, and everyone scurried for the bunkers. Throughout the raid, he said, the Soviets



trembled visibly. And, while no one was hurt, Tang added with a chuckle, "there were several cases of wet pants" noticed afterward.

According to several informed sources, Soviet operatives also succeeded in penetrating the ultrasecret U.S. Studies and Observations Group (SOG), a joint-service organization of elite personnel in nine- to 12-man recon teams. Missions ranged from in-depth area reconnaissance to strikes on communist command and control centers.

Soviets effected penetration of SOG by using "counterraiders" that were exact imitations of the RTs in every respect. The counterraiders were composed of two to three Russians disguised as Americans and nine to 12 NVA or Montagnard soldiers. They wore sanitized clothing and field gear, carried silenced weapons and packed highly sophisticated communications gear. At a distance they were virtually indistinguishable from the bona fide SOG recon teams.

As far as can be determined, the Russian-led counterraiders were first deployed in 1971. One of their principal areas of operation was the tri-border area, also the

TOP: Soviet Mi-6 landing at an airfield inside North Vietnam in 1971. The Soviets provided training for the NVA aircrews and are reported to have flown missions with them. Photo: NVA

ABOVE: Soviet-built Mi-4 helicopters on the ground in North Vietnam. Twelve of these aircraft were allegedly downed near the DMZ in June 1968. Photo: NVA

scene of heavy SOG activity. U.S. and ARVN intelligence were unaware of the counterraiders for the first six months or so, and attributed the compromise of SOG missions to simple bad luck. But as more and more missions were compromised and casualties began to mount, SOG planners began to realize something was seriously awry. Careful study of after-action reports by analysts, combined with extensive debriefings of RT personnel, helped put the fix on the Soviets.

It is also rumored, but unconfirmed, that a high-level defector also contributed heavily to the exposure of the counterraiders. In late 1971 the word went out to all SOG personnel: "The Soviets are actively involved."

By early 1972 SOG had launched an active counteroffensive against the bogus recon teams. One source, who insists on anonymity, confirmed that the Russians did suffer casualties.

"Yes," he said recently, "we killed some Soviets and wounded a whole bunch more. I heard that one of our RTs up north [I Corps] even took a couple of captives, but [I] don't know what eventually happened to them."

Of particular interest to allied intelligence was the fact that the counterraiders teams also included a complete array of air assets that were identical to SOG air assets — A1Es, command helicopters, and UH-1Hs. These aircraft were normally purchased through Third World countries or international business concerns and transported to North Vietnam aboard Soviet or Eastern Bloc freighters.

When flying in support of the counter-raider teams, the bogus aircraft operated from airfields and landing strips inside Laos or North Vietnam. "What was really incredible," said one ex-SOG veteran, "is that their air assets were virtually indistinguishable from ours — same paint scheme, same markings, same armament." Who piloted these aircraft? There is a division of opinion among SOG personnel, but the majority seem to feel it had to be the Soviets.

There is considerable disagreement in U.S. intelligence circles over just who the Russians in the counterraiders teams were. Some hold they were KGB personnel, specially trained to operate in a jungle environment. Others (including this writer) believe they were actually GRU operatives, forerunners of today's elite Spetsnaz formations.

There were also rumors throughout the course of the war that Soviet conventional submarines regularly unloaded people and

munitions off the South Vietnamese coast, particularly in areas adjacent to the Gulf of Siam.

The U.S. Air Force's 1021st Field Activity reported to higher authority in the spring of 1971 that more than a dozen "occidentals" were attached to the headquarters staff of the VC 3001st Battalion in An Xuyen Province. The source of the information, a VC cadre who defected, also



An ARVN raid on a VC bunker complex in the Mekong Delta turned up this Soviet banner emblazoned with the hammer and sickle. Photo: Vietnamese Information Service

Mixed assemblage of NVA men and women soldiers at an unnamed way station along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Note U.S. parachute used as backdrop. This photo was removed from the body of an NVA soldier killed during the course of a clandestine mission inside Laos. Photo: S.L. Stanton collection



provided data on the unloading of an unidentified submarine along the eastern coast of South Vietnam.

Nonetheless, most intelligence sources discount the Soviet sub saga as rumor and speculation. Said one interviewed by this writer: "There may have been an isolated instance or two of landings made by sub, but it certainly wasn't the order of the day. We [the allies] owned the coastal waters and the air above them. I doubt very seriously if the Soviets would have risked a sub, even an outdated diesel boat, when there were less risky ways to accomplish the mission."

Soviet aircraft, however, are an entirely different story. There are numerous reports on file of Soviet choppers being used in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. In most instances, the choppers restricted their activities to remote areas, such as the Central Highlands, to minimize chances of encountering hostile anti-aircraft fire. Intelligence sources are divided as to who crewed these aircraft; some say they were Soviets, others insist they were Soviet-trained North Vietnamese personnel. Both U.S. and ARVN radar regularly tracked these choppers, but were reluctant to engage them for fear of provoking a major incident with the Soviets.

Nonetheless, rumors persist in the special operations community that, on at least one occasion, American Special Forces advisers and Montagnard tribesmen successfully ambushed a Soviet Mi-6 helicopter on the ground in Darlac Province in 1969. According to one version, the chopper was carrying munitions and exploded when hit while unloading, killing seven Soviet crewmen.

Russian combat pilots were also active in the air over Laos. In one incident described in former intelligence officer Larry J. O'Daniel's book *Missing in Action: Trail of Deceit* (N.Y., Arlington House, 1979) a Soviet-piloted MiG jet fighter is believed responsible for the downing of a U.S. C-47D command and control aircraft in July 1966.

On several occasions in 1967 and 1968, Thai security police fired on Soviet Mi-6 heavy transport helicopters ferrying supplies to communist insurgents in northeast Thailand. A government spokesman said Thai intelligence had confirmed the choppers were being flown from North Vietnam and communist-occupied portions of Laos. The aircrews, according to one source, were made up of both Russians and North Vietnamese.

The area along the DMZ separating North and South Vietnam was the setting for what has become unofficially known as The Great Helicopter Fiasco. In June 1968 the U.S. military command announced that aircraft, "suspected to be enemy helicopters," were fired upon near the eastern end of the DMZ, just north of the Ben Hai River. A brief follow-up announcement added that the U.S. was conducting daylight reconnaissance sweeps over the area, to "ascertain damage and obtain other information."

The announcements confirmed what re-

porters in the area had already learned from independent sources — anywhere from two to 12 Soviet-built helicopters had been downed inside, rather than north of, the DMZ.

U.S. spokesmen said the choppers were sighted by radar and downed by a combination of artillery and Navy Phantom jet fighters. It was initially speculated that the helos were lifting troops and material into the area.

The best details came from the South Vietnamese military command, and their account differed considerably from the version put out by American spokesmen.

Vietnamese sources said three of the turbo-powered, single-rotor Mi-4 choppers — each capable of carrying up to 2½ tons of cargo — were shot down by artillery as they attempted to make a run down the coast under cover of darkness. The next night the enemy made a second attempt, but again the chopper flight was picked up by radar. U.S. Navy Phantoms were scrambled from carriers off the coast and immediately engaged the choppers. Nine were shot from the sky — one exploded in the air before crashing into the sea, indicating it had been carrying munitions. One ARVN officer said that, of the nine helos downed, six went into the South China Sea, one was "reported to have crashed on the beach," and two went down further inland.

Several days later, American spokesmen reversed their position and denied the chopper-downings had ever taken place. A U.S. command spokesman issued statements to the press, saying "misreading of radar signals" may have caused "erroneous reports" of enemy helicopter sightings around the DMZ.

One U.S. spokesman went so far as to say it was likely that American planes and artillery had fired on allied ships just off the coast, which on radar scopes "appeared to be low-flying helicopters." He further pointed out that all the reported activity had been at night and "unconfirmable by visual observation."

Reporters continued to press forth with questions, smelling a major news story, but the U.S. command backed off and said they had no further comment on the story, other than to throw in the standard line that an official investigation was "underway."

The South Vietnamese were not deterred, however, and they stuck to their version of what had happened, insisting that a total of 12 Soviet helos had been destroyed.

As the controversy continued to rage, General Creighton W. Abrams, U.S. Commander in Vietnam, entered the fray issuing a statement saying "there is no formal, concrete, factual evidence" of enemy helicopters being used along the demilitarized zone. At least one U.S. major general, who asked not to be identified, disagreed with Abrams' statement. During an informal meeting with reporters, the anonymous major general said he not only believed the choppers had been shot down, but speculated that they may have been ferrying



Larry J. O'Daniel served as an Army intelligence officer in Vietnam and later authored a book on POW/MIAs. He alleges that a Soviet-piloted MiG fighter downed a U.S. C-47D over Laos in 1966. Photo: Larry J. O'Daniel

Bui Cong Tuong served as propaganda chief for Kien Hoa Province. He headed security arrangements for visiting Soviet delegations and advisers. He defected in 1970. Photo: Vietnamese Information Center



Soviet Styx missiles to launch sites for attacks on U.S. warships off the coast.

"They — the North Vietnamese — are doing something up there," the general noted, "but what it is, we just don't know."

The general noted that the night sightings indicated the helicopters were large, crane-type craft that could be used to lift in heavy loads such as missiles. The likely lair for the Styx missiles, he said, would be Tiger Island, located about two miles off the eastern end of the demilitarized zone. He emphasized that if the missiles were placed in caves, they would be difficult to destroy.

The South Vietnamese command never wavered in their version of the events, insisting that 12 Soviet-made helos had been shot down. As for the change in the Amer-

ican version of what had taken place, a senior member of General Cao Van Vien's staff put it succinctly: "There were Russians also aboard those helicopters. The Americans were reluctant to further antagonize the Russians by publicizing what had taken place. The story about 'faulty radar readings' was merely a cover-up."

To this day there is no definitive account of the reported chopper downings. Fact or fiction; maybe a bit of both. No one can — or will — say for sure. But there is no doubt that the KGB was hard at work in Indochina.

According to ARVN security officials, agents of the 6th and 7th Departments worked separately from, but in direct support of, Soviet military advisers serving with VC and NVA units. The KGB also frequently stirred up dissent, encouraged anti-Americanism and engaged in disinformation scams. Some of the KGB operatives worked undercover in Saigon, while others were reported to be active in Phnom Penh, Bangkok and even as far afield as Hong Kong and Macao.

Soviet advisers were reported to be active in the field right up to the time of the Cease-fire Agreement. In February 1973, a Pathet Lao deserter told interrogators about Soviet liaison officers attached to the Pathet Lao headquarters complex at Ban Na Kay Neua. He also told of large, unidentified helicopters, thought to be Soviet-manned, that regularly flew between Hanoi and Sam Neua.

Other sightings of Soviets operating with enemy units occurred in Camau in February 1973 and again in November of that year, near the town of An Loc in late 1973, and in the foothills west of Danang during January/February 1974.

Why would the Soviets and their allies undertake a field role, albeit covert, in Indochina? For a variety of reasons, according to one well-known military/political observer.

"For starters, it's good training for their special unit personnel, like the counter-raider participants. It also gives them an on-ground presence that allows them a degree of influence and permits them to see firsthand how their aid, especially 'special equipment,' is used." But more importantly, he stressed, "it permitted them to evaluate U.S. and ARVN forces, how they reacted to situations, and what counter-measures they employed."

Did these Soviet advisers have any impact on the outcome of the war? We may never know the answer, but there is no doubt that the North Vietnamese got more than just arms and lip service from Moscow. That's not so surprising. The old men in the Kremlin are known as shrewd businessmen who always protect their investments. And that usually means sending soldiers to help influence the outcome. ✎

VIETNAM TOMAHAWK

Hatchet Teams' Ultimate Accessory

Text & Photos by
Leroy Thompson

RIGHT: Multipurpose tool or close-combat weapon? The Vietnam Tomahawk served a dual purpose for many troops on the line.

BELOW: From chopping blade to puncturing point, olive-drab head measures eight inches.



ROGERS' Rangers were offered a choice between a tomahawk and a sword, and during the French and Indian War they took the tomahawk. A versatile tool and weapon, the tomahawk also saw action during the early years of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The "Vietnam Tomahawk," marketed by the American

Tomahawk Company of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, gained considerable popularity with grunts on the line and a few Sneaky Petes behind the lines. Tomahawks were most popular among troops assigned to Special Forces, 1st Air Cav, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division.

North American Indians swung the toma-

hawk in work and war and European-made steel axes simply replaced the traditional stone weapon. Similar weapons were made and used in the trenches of World War I and some World War II Commandos carried small axes as close-combat weapons. But after World War II the military use of tomahawks had virtually died out . . . until Vietnam.

Characterizing the long-handled hatchet as an all-purpose implement for camp or combat, the American Tomahawk Company targeted soldiers of the swelling Vietnam-era military as its big market. Since the American Tomahawk Company can't be located at its old address — and it appears to be out of business — no production figures are available. It's unlikely that more than a few thousand were made, yet the weapon acquired notoriety for being bought by small units.

One squad of B Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division had armed themselves with the tomahawk. When the squad engaged in a vicious hand-to-hand battle with VC trying to escape a blocking force during a search and destroy operation 35 miles north of Saigon, the tomahawks proved their worth. Another trooper found his tomahawk invaluable for chopping a hole through the side of a hut to check doors and windows for booby traps before entering. One Marine doing perimeter duty at Da Nang used his tomahawk during a night encounter to split Charlie's skull.

The Vietnam Tomahawk was balanced for throwing as well as hacking and was designed to be hurled using a sidearm throw. It could also be used to dress out game, chop wood, and shape tent pegs, among other camp chores. The sharply pointed pick opposite the cutting edge could also be used for puncturing drums. Airmobile troops felt confident of their ability to hack their way out of chopper fuselages using the tomahawk, if necessary.

The Vietnam Tomahawk's head is eight inches from chopping blade to puncturing point. The chopping blade has a 2¾-inch cutting edge, while the puncturing point is formed by four triangular sides which create a pyramidal point. The head is mounted on a 16-inch wooden handle which has a hole drilled at the butt for a wrist thong. Both head and handle are olive drab. A cowhide sheath was designed for wear on the belt, but many who carried the tomahawk in Vietnam attached it to their packs or web gear.

Tomahawks never caught on in Vietnam. True, they were multipurpose tools and weapons, but the axes were relatively bulky, and were carried in addition to issue weapons and field gear. The Vietnam Tomahawk probably saved some grunts' lives and claimed some of Charlie's, but few were seen after the opening years of the Vietnam War. Once more the combat/utility tomahawk has virtually disappeared and these Vietnam veterans are rarely seen today except as prized souvenirs. ✕

B24s OVER BERLIN

A Day in the Life of a Yank Bomber

by Courtland Crandall

THE hand that nudged my shoulder in the frigid darkness startled me. "Briefing at 0400, sir," said the faceless voice attached to the hand. It all came into focus. Directly across from me I could make out the shadowy form of my co-pilot, Al, sitting on the edge of his bunk, still in a stupor.

It was mid-February of 1945, and the Nazi empire that was to have lasted a thousand years was tottering on the brink of destruction. In an effort to hasten the fall, we were flying missions whenever possible — and sometimes when it wasn't. We were members of the Army Air Corps and had been assigned to the Second Air Division of the Eighth Air Force the preceding October. Flying out of England, we had completed twenty of the thirty-five missions required

for being returned to the zone of the interior. So we were hardly unaccustomed to the procedures to be followed.

Wordlessly, we finished dressing, donned leather jackets and stepped out into the cold, pre-dawn drizzle so common to English winters. Scurrying over to the relative warmth of the mess hall, we downed fresh eggs and four cups of black coffee. It would be the last meal we'd have for nine or 10 hours, perhaps the last meal we'd have ever.

Following a hurried breakfast, we reluctantly returned to the bone-chilling drizzle and trudged the quarter-mile to the ready room. Everybody speculated about today's target and whether the foul weather would allow the mission to be flown at all. We all

hoped it would be a milk run to France or to some small German city where opposition would be relatively light.

The briefing room was delightfully warm and brightly lit. It filled rapidly with pilots, navigators and bombardiers, everyone scrambling for seats as close to the front as possible. Careful attention to briefings could mean the difference between life and death. The target, as usual, was covered by a curtain. When all crews were present, briefing began.

The first item of business was the formation. The group was to fly three squadrons of 12 planes each: a lead squadron; a low left, which would fly slightly behind and 500 feet below the leader; and a high right, set to fly 500 feet above and also a bit behind the lead. Forming was to take place at 12,000 feet following which there would be a gradual climb en route to the target. The bombing altitude was set for 21,000 feet.

I let out a groan when the chart showed that for the umpteenth time I was to lead the second element in the lead squadron — something we called the bucket. This was the most dangerous spot. Anti-aircraft guns were always aimed at the lead ship with the knowledge that, if accurate, the shell would burst just behind the leader in the heart of the formation. Somebody up there hated me.

The silence following the assignments was deepened as everyone held their breath in anticipation of the target. The CO reached for the cord and drew back the curtain — a gasp escaped the flyers' lips. The red ribbon tracing our planned route stretched all the way from East Anglia to the eye of the shrinking Nazi octopus. Berlin ... the dreaded Big B. We shuddered, knowing that some 4,000 guns lurking in and around the city would greet our arrival.

B-24 Liberators fly low against a curtain of billowing clouds and flames.



Losses would be heavy.

We were shown slides of the target area and each pilot was given his own map tracing the route in and out, and the point at which the bomb run would begin. This really was of interest only to the leader of each squadron. The rest of us would be playing follow the leader.

Next up was the intelligence officer who briefed us as to where along the route we could expect flak and/or fighter attacks. On his heels came the group's weather officer, who had nothing but more bad news.

The base of our overcast was at 500 feet, with the clouds topping at 10,000. This meant long minutes of procedure climbing on instruments, always with the danger of icing or collision. "You should then have clear sailing above the clouds all the way to the target area," the officer droned.

But things got worse. The weather map showed a front hanging over Berlin with thick clouds rising to 30,000 feet. There was no way we could get a fully loaded B-24 Liberator over those. However, the officer seemed unconcerned. He assured us that by the time we arrived at the target the front would have moved on east. Needless to say, we were skeptical.

Briefing over, everyone scampered to his locker for vital equipment — vital because B-24s did not boast heated, pressurized cabins. Winter temperatures in the skies over Europe were in the 50-below-zero range. First came a nylon, electrically heated flying suit. Over this went a fur-lined flying suit, an inflatable life preserver and a flak vest. For headgear we wore a regular cap covered by a flak helmet. At least we'd be warm — even if we weren't going to be safe.

With the usual silence, each man retreated into his own thoughts as we boarded trucks for the trip out to the dispersed hardstands where our Liberators waited. Other crew members joined us there — flight engineer, radio operator, two waist gunners and a tail gunner. We made our pre-flight inspection and boarded the aircraft.

On signal from the tower, I joined the procession of Libs taxiing out to the runway. We reached the head of the queue, lined up for takeoff in the dim light of a grey dawn and got the green light from the tower. I jammed on the brakes, pushed the throttles full forward then released them. This allowed the lumbering plane to gather speed as quickly as possible and with a full load, we would need every foot of our runway to get airborne.

The B-24's nose lifted off just in time and, as briefed, entered the overcast at 500 feet. I made a shallow bank left and began an oval-shaped pattern, flying a precisely timed air speed, rate of climb and direction. Nine times out of 10, this kept the blind-flying pilots from colliding. But there was always that one time it didn't.

Again as briefed, we broke into brilliant sunshine at 10,000 and began scanning the sky above for the forming airplane — a yellow-and-black striped craft that flew in a

wide circle, firing multicolored, coded flares. The squadron leaders would take their places behind, below and above this plane and other pilots would then find their assigned places in the three squadrons.

We quickly found our spot and, exactly on schedule, the group headed eastward, continuing to climb as it went. The Eighth was flying a few over a thousand Libs and Fortresses today, which meant the bomber stream would stretch several hundred miles. Our fighter cover consisted of some 500 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, so altogether we had quite an armada.

Our fighters were most discouraging to the Luftwaffe. The Germans still had plenty of aircraft, but they were now short of pilots and very short of fuel. Allied air strikes against oil refineries had produced results and the Luftwaffe could no longer afford to mount an attack on the whole bomber

stream. Instead, it would pick out two or three groups, somewhere in the stream, and attempt to destroy them. Their thinking was that such tactics would damage the morale of American bomber crews. We were lucky today — we weren't singled out for attention. But as we droned toward the target our radio told us that some groups up ahead were catching hell.

We had reached bombing altitude by the time we arrived at the point at which we would begin our long, straight run over the target. Disaster! As we turned on our run we could see that the weather front had not moved off as promised. Instead, towering clouds, rising thousands of feet above us, hung over Berlin. Ahead were black dots of other bomber groups disappearing into the overcast.

Our group leader's voice crackled over the radio. We would be unable to bomb at planned altitude, but would have to descend to "reference minus four." Moreover, to avoid the risk of formations running together we would fly a dog leg, approaching the target from the south. At the new altitude, bombing should be visual rather than on radar. Suicide! This meant we would be over the city for a full 15 minutes, at 17,000 feet, with ack-ack gunners able to track us visually.

All too soon, we roared into the scud clouds hanging beneath the storm and, on cue, anti-aircraft opened up from below. Between the scudding clouds and the thick smoke from bursting shells, visibility quickly dropped to zero. I was flying some 20 feet below and behind the lead ship, but it was now just a faint shadow. Every few seconds it would disappear and I'd have to hold constant air speed and heading until the shadow reappeared. There was also the threat of my wing men running into me or the leader's wing men colliding with him and sending us all down. I knew they could not possibly see us and were simply holding air speed and heading.

Five minutes that seemed like hours went by. The flak was increasing in intensity and our planes were being tossed about like canoes in rapids. It seemed incredible that we were still flying. My inboard port engine fell victim to flak and it became necessary to drastically increase power and hold right rudder. The lead ship disappeared and we were alone in the dirty grey void.

It was 55 below zero, but I was bathed in sweat. It streamed down my face and into my eyes. Rivulets coursed down my back while my hand gripped the wheel like a vice. I wanted to cry out to break the awful tension, but my vocal cords refused to respond. More minutes dragged by while the orange and black orchids of AA fire burst open all around us. Suddenly, I felt the bombs drop away and the battered plane spring forward as though reborn. A minute or two later we suddenly burst into clear skies over the Baltic. Somehow, we had survived — at least for now.

B-24 LIBERATORS

An experimental version of the B-24 Liberator was first flown on 29 December 1939 and it went into service in 1941. The B-24 was probably the most versatile heavy aircraft of WWII and it saw action in every theater of the war.

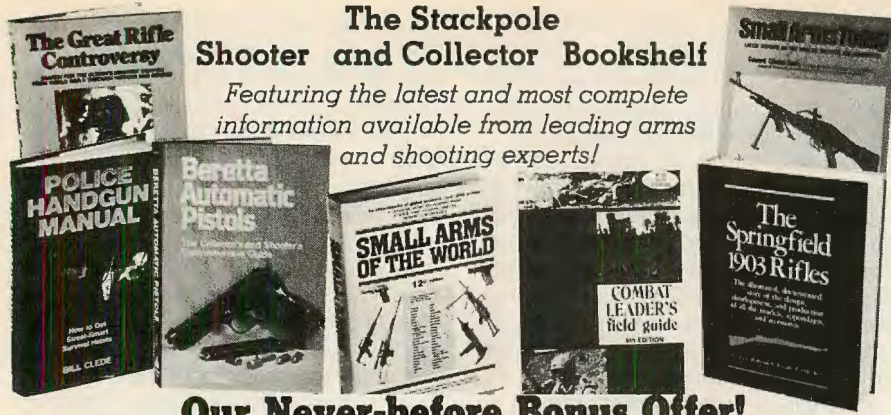
In Europe, the B-24 was not as well-known as the Flying Fortress, but it was used to form one of the most powerful arms of the 8th Air Force. In August 1943, Liberators attacked the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania, causing extensive damage.

In the Far East B-24s hauled supplies over the "Hump" from India into China as well as bombing targets on the Chinese mainland. The Liberator also served with the U.S. Navy and the RAF in the Pacific where it wreaked havoc on Japanese shipping.

In August 1944, Liberators were converted into transport planes for the role of supporting Allied troops in France. These "trucking missions" continued until September 1944 when the Liberators were replaced by C-47s after Operation Market Garden. By the close of WWII 18,188 B-24s had been built — more than any other single aircraft of the war.

Type B-24 strategic bomber
Crew eight to 10
Power plant Four 1,200 hp
R-1830-65 engines
Dimensions Wingspan 110 ft.;
Length, 27 ft. 2 in.; Height, 18 ft.;
Wing Area, 1,048 sq. ft.
Weight Empty, 36,000 lbs.;
Gross, 64,500 lbs.
Performance Maximum speed,
300 mph at 30,000 ft.; Cruising
speed, 215 mph; Initial climb, 25
min. to 20,00 ft.; Service ceiling,
28,000 ft.; Range, 2,100 mi.
Armament 10 .50-cal. machine
guns and an 1,800-lb. bomb load

Continued on page 98



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DESERT DROP

Continued from page 43

zone of an ambush. Pyrotechnics exploded around us. Flores pulled off and pitched out of the jeep. Keith tried to escape, but was efficiently dispatched. The truck behind us was similarly taken out and the Search/POW Team moved in. I saw all 200 pounds of SSgt. Keith tossed over the front of the jeep, his jungle fatigue jacket and tee-shirt pulled over his head and arms, blinding and immobilizing him if he had happened to survive. I hoped he would keep his cool at being manhandled. The rest of the bad guys were searched quickly in much the same manner. Explosives were set and detonated.

A damn fine hit all in all, and a good way to finish the tactical part of the school. Keith and Flores were all grins and full of praise over the way things—including themselves—had been handled.

So what does it all add up to? For me it was a good close-up look at U.S. troops in action. All in all, I was impressed. I'm glad to see the students pushing their way through, throwing personal pain aside and surviving on guts and pride while being led by experienced, dedicated role models. Seeing that small shoulder tab in hot-spots around the world will make me feel safer. ✕

ITHACA MAG-10

Continued from page 31

extension tube, surrounding the magazine, against the bolt carrier by means of two steel rods brazed to the end of the steel tube. As the bolt carrier travels to the rear it pulls the bolt down, drawing the single locking lug on top of the bolt out of the slot in the barrel extension.

As you might expect from a weapon subjected to big-bore stresses, the barrel extension is machined into the barrel billet. And the barrel itself is hammered to shape by Ithaca's Roto-Forge process. If nothing else, the Roadblocker is *strong*. On top of that, triple reaming and careful hand-lapping polish the barrel's smooth interior surface to a mirror finish.

A five-inch-long link rod connects the bolt carrier to the recoil spring's guide rod. Spring and guide rod ride in a steel tube within the buttstock.

Solid stainless-steel fabrication helps protect the gas system and other parts prone to corrosion and wear. Roadblocker's bolt body, shell lifter, trigger, retracting handle and bolt release are also stainless. All are investment cast and show little machine finishing.

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An aluminum casting forms the trigger housing, which is finished with black paint. This would have been acceptable if the paint hadn't dissolved in perchlorate ethylene during cleaning, leaving a bright, shiny, alloy trigger guard. If we can't expect a steel trigger guard on a \$700 shotgun, the least we demand is proper anodizing or a baked enamel finish.

Trigger pull weight was only 3¾ pounds, but scratchy. Burrs on the trigger mechanism were removed by gunsmith Burke C. Hill Jr. Again, why should we encounter this on such an expensive firearm? The trigger housing is held to the receiver by two pins, which are easy to remove, but infuriating to re-install. The receiver has been milled from solid bar stock.

Behind the trigger in the housing casting, the conventional cross-bolt safety sits in its usual position. It's big enough to hit under stress . . . no problem here. In the safe position the cross-bolt blocks trigger movement by engaging a large spur cast into the trigger's rear surface.

The Roadblocker's shell lifter has been slotted, a now common feature on fighting shotguns. This is supposed to assist clearing a stoppage involving a shell wedged above the lifter that has failed to chamber. Nevertheless, on three occasions during our test, when shells jammed above the lifter were pried back into the magazine, the shell stop would not retain them: a potentially fatal shortcoming.

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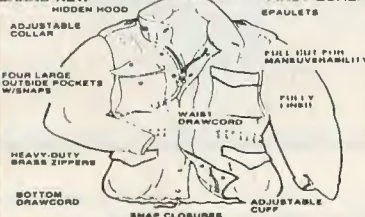
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In an effort to partly correct this deficiency, I turned to the grand master of custom leather, Milt Sparks. Milt has a lace-on emergency ammo carrier for shotguns, designed by the late survival expert and SOF staffer, Mel Tappan. Of course, you can buy cheap elastic shell holders that fit over the buttstock. They're made in Mexico and Hong Kong, they'll stretch to fit any stock and then they'll keep on stretching until they fall off. Milt's handcrafted leather shell holder, euphemistically called the "Cold



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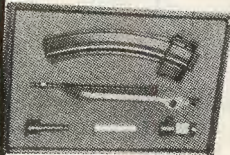
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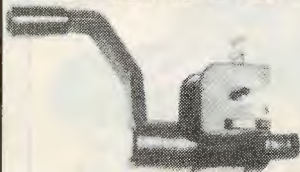
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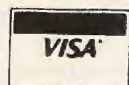


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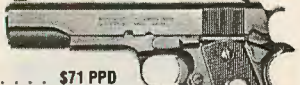
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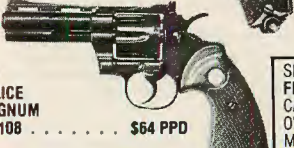
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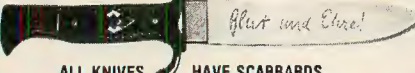
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Comfort," totes seven shells in 12-gauge. It's made to last and exudes the quality that professional pistoleros have come to expect from Sparks.

After some consultation, Milt decided to limit the cheek piece for the Roadblocker to only five shells. Once attached, it never moved under the Roadblocker's pounding recoil. There are no rivets to mar the stock and the lacing eyelets are padded by a soft-leather gusset. Attractive and durable, Sparks' shell holder provides a comfortable interface between the cheekbone and walnut stock. Priced at \$32 in natural finish, cordon or black will cost you only \$5 more. Milt (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 187, Idaho City, Idaho 83631) offers immediate delivery on Cold Comfort shell holders (#C/C) in 12-gauge. He also makes some of the best no-nonsense holsters for serious social purposes. I use Milt's cross-draw holster #55BN and 1 3/4-inch lined belt to carry my Randall Curtis LeMay on the streets of San Salvador.

Now, by the time we've stuffed three shells into the Roadblocker and attached Sparks' shell holder we're up to 12 pounds, five ounces. No problem for Arnold Schwarzenegger, but too much for me. I need a sling to lug it around the range. Thank God, the Roadblocker comes ready to accept Uncle Mike's quick-detachable sling swivels (#1061, Model QD 115 MAG 10). To this I added their 48-inch padded carrying sling with one-inch straps. Similar to the excellent black nylon padded sling on the M60 GPMG, this rig will ease the burden of those poor devils forced to drag this monster more than 10 feet from the squad car. Both these items are available from Michaels of Oregon (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213).

The Roadblocker can be loaded in one of two ways. In either case, engage the safety first (push the button to the left). Pull back the retracting handle to open the action. Drop a shell in the chamber. Depress the bolt/carrier-release lever below the ejection port on the right side of the receiver to close the action. Hold down on the bolt/carrier-release lever. This will permit the shell carrier to swing upward. Insert two shells into the magazine past the shell stop. If you must carry the shotgun with an empty chamber, merely jacking the cocking handle will chamber a round. To unload you must work the shells through the action (with the safety on) manually, depressing the carrier-release lever with each cycle.

Disassembly procedures are forthright and simple. Unload the weapon. Pull back the retracting handle to lock open the action. Unscrew the forearm cap and slide out the walnut forearm. Pull out the barrel with its gas block. Remove the slide extension tube from around the magazine. To remove the trigger housing group, first allow the bolt to move completely forward, under control. Knock out the two retaining pins and remove the trigger housing group by pulling downward on the trigger guard. To disassemble the gas system, remove the circ-



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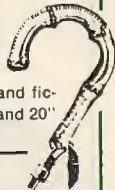
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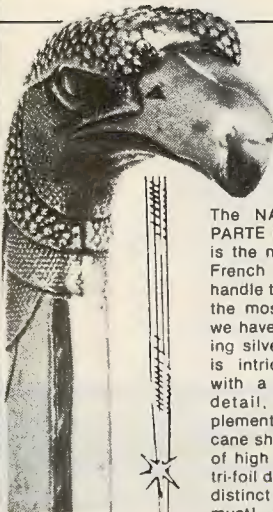
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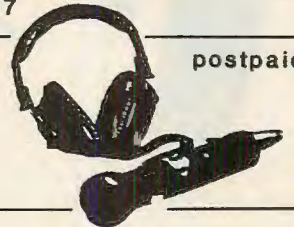
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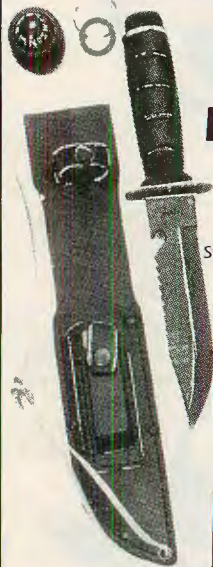
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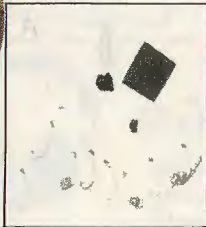


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lar retaining spring from the rear of the piston and slide off the cupped sleeve. No further disassembly is suggested.

Ten-gauge ammunition can cause more than the usual amount of fouling. Use stainless-steel armorers' brushes and small scrapers (carefully) to remove the carbon residue. Shotgun bores are best cleaned by "Tornado"-type brushes — a spiraled design of looped non-corrosive wire. Unfortunately, no one seems to make one in 10-gauge so you'll have to use the bronze brush supplied by Ithaca. Do not lubricate the gas system. Re-assemble in the reverse order.

Four man-stopping loads are available off-the-shelf to those who wish to do their killing with a 10-gauge magnum. None of it is cheap. It ranges in retail price from \$1.15 (00 Buck) to \$1.42 (slug) per shell. Tapping the trigger on the Roadblocker is every bit as expensive as shooting a .50-caliber Browning machine gun. What kind of buck do we get for our buck?

Federal's Super Slug is a hollowpoint .78-cal. projectile weighing in at 765 grains (12-gauge slugs weigh about 440 grains). This is 57 grains heavier than the .50-cal. M2 Armor Piercing bullet. But the Federal soft lead-alloy slug comes out of a smooth-bore barrel at an average muzzle velocity of only 1,240 fps. The M2 boattailed bullet has a hard-steel core, full metal jacket and roars out of Ma Deuce's mouth at 2,900 fps. They are hardly comparable, either in penetration or long-range potential. The best accuracy we obtained with the Federal slug was about 10 MOA, acceptable when the target is no greater than 50 yards away.

As to penetration, certainly it's all you need on a human target, but questionable on a vehicle (it is called the "Roadblocker," isn't it?). Shooting at an abandoned car, one slug entered through the truck door, passed through the rear and front seats and embedded itself in the dash. Another went through one door, but failed to make it through the other. And what does all this prove? Not as much as some gun-writing hacks would lead you to believe. An automobile body is the very worst kind of test medium for penetration tests. It's not homogeneous and thus the results are not repeatable. Who knows what support structures brace the body's skin at any given point? Based on their junkyard tests some sages will lead you to believe the M16's M193 ball projectile is worthless against a car body. Yet, I've seen cars and trucks in El Salvador with hundreds of .223 entry and exit holes, at every angle, through every portion of the body and windows.

Federal also offers a 00 Buck shell with 18 .33-inch pellets in a granulated filler (twice the number found in the usual 12-gauge military/police shell). At 15 yards 14 of these nasty pills will consistently strike your opponent in the head and chest. Instant mincemeat. At 25 yards we'll get 10 hits just about every time. Termination with extreme prejudice. But, by 35 yards three pellets is the best we can hope for. It's no longer certain he'll drop immediately. The 10-gauge shotgun is not a rifle.

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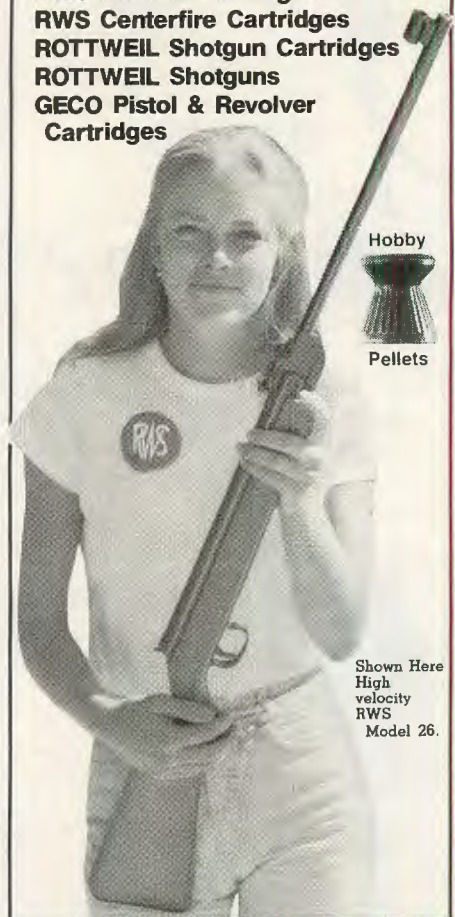
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The Los Angeles Times, Feb. 20, 1983

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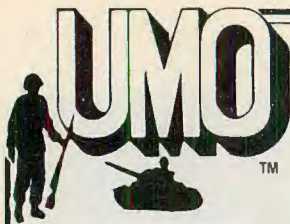
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Those who wish to preserve the sanctity of their homes with an Ithaca Roadblocker are well-advised to employ Winchester's Super Double X load of BB shot. There are 125 .180-inch-diameter pellets in each shell. Buck shot will usually penetrate through two layers of sheet rock. BBs will not. There's little to be gained in killing your family while protecting them.

The Roadblocker's felt recoil falls somewhere between a Beeman R1 air rifle and firing a 100-round belt through an HK21 GPMG, depending on how many rounds you fire in succession. The weight of the gun and the well-designed recoil pad are mitigating factors, to be sure. Anyone used to firing a high-power rifle should be able to handle 10 or 15 rounds through the Roadblocker without problem. However, two of us fired more than 200 rounds through the MAG 10 during one session. After 30 rounds, shooter fatigue begins to slide upward in an asymptotic curve.

Recoil is only a minor consideration. The eight stoppages encountered were not. There were two failures to eject and six failures to feed. Three of the feed stoppages

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were cleared only with great difficulty. This just won't do when engaging targets that shoot back. The normal ejection pattern is six feet to the right.

In spite of its weight, the Rockblocker balances well when put to the shoulder. It's muzzle heavy and this assists in the acquisition of moving targets (unlike B21 silhouette targets, dirtballs usually refuse to stand still when you shoot at them). Out to 35 yards the Roadblocker always shot and patterned right to the point of aim.

Elmer Keith used to maintain that "A shotgun with buckshot is one of the most deadly gun fighting weapons up to 30 yards. Beyond that range it is problematical, and a good sixgun shot has the advantage." In my opinion, the Roadblocker extends that range by another 10 yards, at most. But, at what price? Is the tradeoff worthwhile?

Not to me. The gun and its ammunition are both too expensive. Even the most rabid power maniac would eventually groan under its 12-pound burden. It fails to meet the standards of reliability required of a combat weapon (as do almost all autoloading shotguns in 12-gauge as well). Its two-shell magazine is a most serious defect. At normal shotgun contact ranges 12-gauge is sufficient. There is only one degree of death and nine 00 Buck pellets in the body cavity will do nicely; eighteen just makes the county coroner's job more tedious.

Oh well, it's still a damn good goose gun. ☒

MAD MIKE'S OWN STORY

Continued from page 53

ville. As the U.N. tightened its grip and the end neared, Tshombe ordered his mercs to disband and go home. Some, such as the French colonel, Bob Denard, remained in the re-unified Congo. Tshombe went into voluntary exile in Spain.

So closed the opening chapter of the modern revival of mercenaryism. Hoare now concedes that he was primarily motivated by a lust for adventure to sign his first soldier of fortune contract. In contrast, Mike says his most recent mercenary endeavor in the Seychelles was more a matter of human and political principle for him, prompted by his strong anti-communist feelings. In looking back on his involvement in Katanga, he sees himself as politically naive then. But he credits mercenary duty in Africa with developing a keen awareness of communism's threatening nature through its insidious way of exploiting social and political breakdowns.

But at its genesis, what prompts a man to voluntarily give up the love and comforts of home to go off and risk his life in remote, forgotten places?

"There's no answer to that one," Hoare says. "I believe you are made that way. An adventurous life suggests itself to you.

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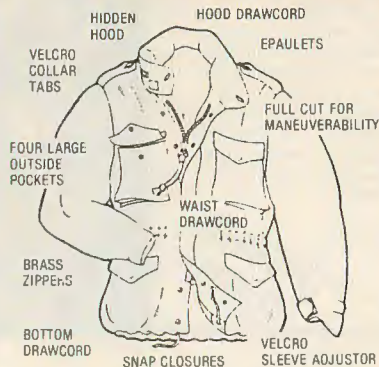
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Perhaps it's a question of genes. Many would say why go off on a motorbike? Why give yourself hardship? But that's the last way I would describe such a trip, though it is hardship to a certain degree. Hardship and adventure are inseparable.

"I suppose ultimately it's contrast. When you've done something adventurous — like you are caught in a storm at sea in a small yacht — that's living dangerously. When you are back safely in port, the contrast between the two situations heightens your appreciation of life. In a nutshell, when you do it, you are aware it is dangerous. But when it's over you are proud. You have achieved something. It adds to your life.

"Spencer Chapman formulated this doctrine in 1934/35 and had a following," Hoare recalls. "I met him once in Mombasa. He was a magnificent man and I am in complete agreement with his attitude to life.

"Nevertheless, I admire people who can do a regular job from eight to five, because I'm not one of them. It's the dayworkers who run the world, not the adventurers." However, Mike Hoare did settle down enough to get married again, to a young South African girl named Phyllis Sims.

An uneasy, temporary peace settled on the Congo, so in 1962 Mike sought out his old friend John Seaman. Together they ran five safaris of 21 days each in the Okavango Swamps using three Land Rovers, a five-ton Bedford truck, motor-boats, canoes and yachts. As a schoolboy I went on one of

these safaris and discovered the attraction of the swamps.

But that attraction can be dangerous.

My father's business grew bigger and better. But in early 1963, at his base camp deep in the swamps, his new wife contracted cerebral malaria. He had to take her by motorboat for days through the clogged swamps. She was unconscious most of the time. Eventually he obtained a light plane to complete the journey to the hospital. It took Phyllis a year to recover.

Of his many struggles with danger and the terror it can bring, this is one he still doesn't like to discuss. "It was the most harrowing experience of my life," he said. Suffice it to say that he has never been back to the swamps.

Such was not the case with the Congo. Events there were evolving that would bring him back to serve his old benefactor, Moise Tshombe, but this time on the side of the Congo government. By mid-1964, U.N. troops pulled out of the Congo. Ironically, Tshombe — a man who had opposed the new government only four years earlier — returned from exile in Madrid to become the nation's new prime minister. But other than different names on the scorecard, the situation in the Congo was about the same: anarchy caused by the government's inability to enforce law and order on people within its borders.

Oriente Province was in revolt and Kivu Province had been overrun by communist-inspired rebels. Soon two-thirds of the Congo was in rebel hands, with a minimum of fighting and a maximum of witchcraft. Ultimately the rebels reached a point only 16 miles from the capital in Leopoldville, now Kinshasa.

Tshombe sent his unofficial emissary at the time, Gerry Puren, to see Mike. (Puren would later be captured and sentenced to death for the Seychelles raid, but subsequently was released.) On this occasion, Puren found Hoare aboard Hoare's 36-foot, gaff-rigged cutter named "Colin Archer," christened after its famous designer and builder. Hoare and the "Colin Archer" had been getting their fill of adventure on the treacherous Natal coast.

"Tshombe designated me — I'll never forget the very grand title — Commander of Land Forces," Mike laughs. "I thought, 'Well, there's nothing to lose in going to see him.' We were kept virtual prisoners in a five-star hotel waiting for weeks to see Tshombe. Eventually we saw him. I was still politically naive and saw it as a great adventure. The thought of commanding a very big force . . . He was talking about a division, with a minimum of 1,000 white mercenaries and 14,000 blacks. I would have complete autonomy and an air force. It was going to be a very big show, and the technical side really appealed to me.

"Money played very little part in it," says Hoare, who was commissioned a colonel. "The most I earned in a month was £500 (basic and danger pay) and half of that was in Congolese francs, which you could

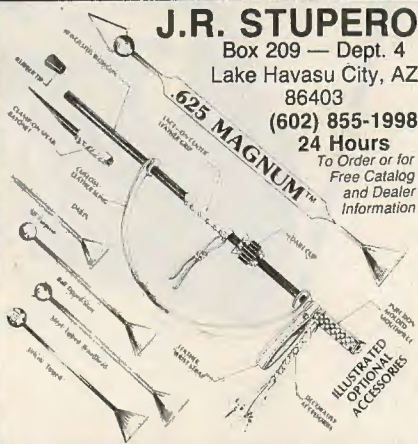
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do nothing with. John Bullock of the London Daily Telegraph wrote at the time I was the funniest mercenary he'd ever come across because money was of no importance to me."

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In the first campaign in this second stage of the Congo wars, Hoare's men in what was designated 5 Commando — later famous as the Wild Geese — consisted of a strike force of 121 mercenaries, mainly South Africans. The basic rate was £280 (including danger pay) a month, which was roughly twice an artisan's rate of pay in South Africa at the time. They were to spearhead a column — 15 miles long and containing 1,000 vehicles and Armée Nationale Congolaise (ANC) troops — in an attack to retake Stanleyville.

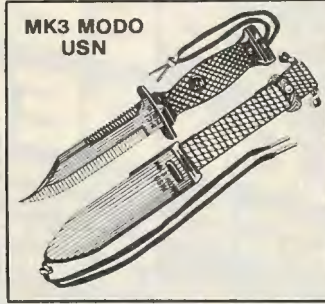
A bloody terror gripped Stanleyville at the hands of the communist-backed tribal rebels. Over 300 white civilians had been taken hostage by the Simbas, who daily were killing dozens of Congolese in the cruelest ways imaginable.

One of the victims, Sylvere Bondekwe, the mayor of the city and a greatly respected and powerful man, was forced to stand naked before a frenzied crowd of Simbas. One of the rebels, a young boy of barely 13 or 14, cut out the mayor's liver while others held Bondekwe upright. The grisly deed done, surviving eyewitnesses said the tormentor chewed off a piece of the organ and

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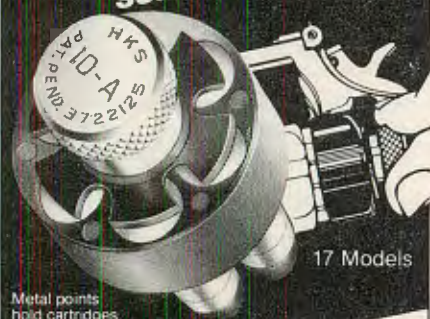
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then turned it over still hot and throbbing to the frenzied mob, who tore the liver into pieces and ate it. Bondekwe was forced to watch the horrible spectacle while he lay bleeding to death in agony.

On 24 November 1964, Belgian paratroops dropped on Stan airport at 0635. Mercenary troops under Hoare and others closed in. By 0700, as the sound of firing rescuers neared, the hostages were dragged into the street and shoved and kicked two blocks away, the massacre began. An American doctor, Paul Carlson, and 26 others were machine-gunned to death while 53 others survived with severe wounds.

Once Stanleyville was secured, Colonel Hoare led his men on many forays into nearby outlying areas to rescue missionaries, traders and civilians who had been taken hostage. Sometimes they were too late. At Isangi, 150 km from Stan and deep in enemy territory, they rescued a large number of Congolese Roman Catholic nuns who "were petrified with fear," Mike Hoare recalls. "Many of them wept copiously and had to be coaxed out of hiding." Their white counterparts had been taken to Yangambi, some distance away. The mercenaries fought their way to the mission.

"What I saw tore out my heart," Hoare later wrote in *Congo Mercenary*, his first book. "The room was full of nuns and priests so badly bruised and beaten that some were difficult to recognize as human beings. Nuns lay stripped of their clothing, their bodies black and blue with bruises, and red with marks of the lash, teeth broken and lips swollen. Priests lay naked and ashamed, their bodies tortured beyond human endurance. A young nun in strips of clothing stumbled to the door, and with tears in her eyes, flung her arms around my neck and kissed me on the cheek. She may have been beautiful once. 'God has answered our prayers,' she cried out over and over again."

The next two campaigns were bigger. Five hundred men were trained at a beautiful town in the Congo highlands called Bunia and put to work in a series of operations with romantic names like Operation White Giant to clean up the areas of Orientale Province on the border with Sudan and Uganda. They also liberated a vast area of land to the west, freed hostages and acted as a spearhead for the ANC, who then garrisoned the towns.

The last and toughest campaign for Mike was in the Fizi-Baraka area of Lake Tanganyika. The Cubans had already infiltrated the area and the rebels were being supplied across the lake from Tanzania.

As a footnote to history, the campaign battle pitted Michael Hoare against someone who would later become one of the most famous communist revolutionaries of the century.

But it wasn't until Ché Guevara became well known in 1966 that the U.S. media unearthed the fact that Mike had fought and

beaten him in the Congo. Mike admits it was his toughest battle. In a combined operation he had brought his men in from the lake north of Baraka, the rebel HQ. The quality of the enemy had improved markedly. Something was different. Intelligence later told him that the Cubans had arrived in Baraka two months earlier and were commanded by a man named Ché Guevara. The name meant little to Hoare in 1965 except as the name of a man who obviously knew how to wage a competent guerrilla war.

But despite the Cuban assistance, the power of the Simbas was largely broken in a series of small battles and a combined operation, isolating them to small, roving outlaw bands. If the brushfire war was not completely extinguished, it smoldered faintly in contained pockets. To this day, when some of the former rebels run the government, this area is a hotbed of guerrilla activity, still being supplied across the lake and uncontrollable.

It was at this time that Hoare acquired his nickname, "Mad Mike." No one is quite sure how the appellation originated.

The man himself offers his thoughts on the subject. "I'd been promised the EX-NATO barracks at Kamina were fully equipped. But there was nothing there, only chaos. Plus, a lot of men thought they'd be getting vast sums of money every Friday evening. But mercenary soldiering is not like that. So the disillusioned left and had a lot to say back in the Jo'burg pubs. Reporters were eager to listen, less ardent about checking the so-called facts. It's quite likely some of them said 'That bloke's mad.' Or could it have been an anti-mercenary stance by the English press in South Africa, adopted to have a dig at the South African government, which was pro-mercenary at that time?"

But condemnation by the press did not dim Mike's confidence at the time that mercenaries had a rosy future in Africa, policing and settling formerly troubled regions. This did not come to pass, however, and Mike Hoare realizes that the mercenaries themselves were not entirely blameless in this regard. Some under a Belgian merc, Jean "Black Jack" Schramme, and others under the Frenchman, Denard, much later revolted against the Congolese government after Tshombe had returned to exile in Spain. The so-called "Mercenaries' Revolt" ended in expulsion for all mercenaries in the Congo. It also ended with Tshombe being kidnaped (probably under CIA orders) as he tried to return to the Congo. He was sent instead to an Algerian prison, where he died two years to the day after his capture. That date was 30 June, ironically the same day as independence from colonial rule in the former Belgian Congo, now known as Zaire.

His adventures fighting in the Congo over, Mike settled in Kloof, near Durban, to write a first-hand account of his experiences. The result was *Congo Mercenary*, published in hardback by Robert Hale, London, and *Mercenary*, published in softback by Corgi in Britain and Bantam in the

United States. The Bantam edition has an epilogue.

With his book complete, Mike sought to capitalize on one of the lessons he had learned in the Congo, the importance of French. Hoare traveled to Grenoble, France, for advanced study of the language. He had moved to Paris when another part of Africa flared up and important people once again began seeking out his expertise.

Soon after the Ibo tribe declared itself and the state of Biafra independent of Nigeria's rule, Hoare, who had completed his language study, got a call. "Certain parties," says Hoare, declining to elaborate, were anxious for Biafra to succeed in its bid for independence. Oil, which speaks a universal language all its own, had been discovered in the area under tentative control of the fledgling government.

"I was approached by the Ibos and asked to come and see for myself the situation," says Hoare. "An old friend from the Congo days, Jack Malloch, was flying ammo in to them by devious routes, so I got a ride with him on a DC7B.

"I'm a devout coward in the air at the best of times, mainly due to ignorance, a powerful imagination and the knowledge that I have no control over my fate," Hoare admits. "But this flight was my worst. As we came in to land on a darkened airstrip in the jungles of Biafra, our own side opened up on us. It was only by a miracle we weren't killed. And all Jack said was 'They

do it every time.'

"I met President Ojukwu, an ex-Sandhurst man, but he had already had negotiations with Roger Falques, whom I had served with previously [in the Congo]. He was a great soldier, this Frenchman, but I couldn't have served under him. And two units were out of the question. So that came to nothing."

As is often the case when the services of mercenaries are sought, when a deal with one side did not work out, the other side made an approach of its own.

"I had some involvement with the other side," Hoare now concedes, but he said it was minimal. At any rate, he is typically tight-lipped, saying, "I won't talk about that." Hoare returned to South Africa, his family and his beloved sailing yacht, the "Colin Archer." He sharpened his skills as a deep-water sailor and then reached for the adventure of a lifetime, a decades-old dream that now was almost within his grasp. (NEXT MONTH: Chris Hoare writes about his father's family years and "Mad Mike" Hoare's recruiting, organizing and leading a mercenary force to the far-flung Seychelles Islands.) ✕

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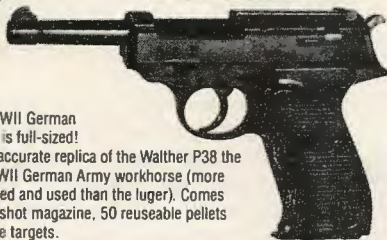
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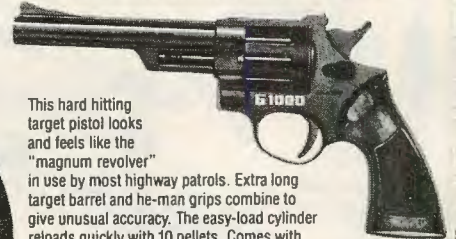
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IRAN'S MILITARY SUICIDE

Continued from page 69

A major problem for both sides in this war has been that their offensives have to take an east-west axis, with the Iranians attacking in a westerly direction and the Iraqis trying to advance eastward. Unfortunately, most of the good roads, especially in the Southern Sector where most of the fighting has been, run north-south. If the Iraqis attack as expected, the cross-country capabilities of Soviet trucks will be severely tested, but without the new vehicles, any sustained Iraqi offensive would be unthinkable.

Iraq's New Tactics

Still, by any standards, the influx of ZILs, Urals, T-62s and BMPs has dramatically increased Iraqi mobility and hitting power. In 1984 and again this year, this increased mobility allowed Iraq to abandon a static, hold-at-all-costs posture for a mobile defense.

The Iraqis now deliberately allow the enemy to penetrate a selected area of the front and pour in reserves. Then, while artillery pins them in place and air strikes interdict their reinforcements, the Iranian penetration is cut up and annihilated by hard-hitting Iraqi armored and mechanized units attacking from one or both flanks with air, artillery and infantry support.

So far, the new tactics have worked. U.S. estimates say Iran lost over 23,000 killed—mostly Pasdaran—in their March 1985 "Kheibar II" attack.

Those familiar with U.S. Army tactical doctrine will note that Iraq's mobile defensive tactics have all the elements of a combined arms operation, albeit in a well-rehearsed, set-piece battle atmosphere. It remains to be seen how good their coordination will be in a more fluid offensive operation.

Most of Iraq's artillery is not self-propelled and would be hard-pressed to keep up with any real breakthrough. This disadvantage, however, is largely offset by the Iraqi Air Force which has complete control of the air and, thanks to recent French training, has finally learned to give decent close support to the ground forces, at least in defensive situations.

Iraqi small-unit tactics also leave something to be desired. While, on the operational level, they do select the enemy's weak points and avoid frontal attacks, it is doubtful they have really learned to properly coordinate their advances with air and artillery support or bypass pockets of resistance in favor of striking for the enemy's vulnerable command and communications in the rear.

Despite all this, any initial Iraqi attack is almost certain to be devastating if there is any element of surprise or misdirection at all.

The War of the Cities

As I write, Iraq has proclaimed a unilateral ceasefire in its first real strategic bombing campaign, the so-called "war of the cities," aimed at hurting Iran's economy and breaking civilian morale. But the ceasefire ends on 30 June and Iraq is building up for another, more intense effort.

Sources in Tehran say that Iraq's last two efforts, from 14 March-7 April and 25 May-15 June, were very effective. Opposition from the Iranian Air Force was negligible to non-existent as the Iraqis hit air bases and military and industrial targets all over Tehran, including Tehran's locomotive works and the heavy industrial area near Javadieh.

Even the lumbering old Tu-16 bombers were getting through as the Iraqis hit targets as far away as Kashan, over 360 miles from their bases. One source in Tehran said he could see 20 Iraqi planes at one time just in his area of the city, while the Iraqis boasted of 180-plane raids on the Iranian capital. Whatever the real numbers, anti-war feeling in Tehran is at an all-time high.

Even Iran's most heavily defended target, the oil terminal at Kharg Island which handles 80 percent of Iran's oil exports, was hit hard. Without Kharg's oil revenues, Iran can't hope to finance its own defense, let alone invade Iraq.

Obviously, the Iraqis hope strategic bombing alone will force Iran to negotiate, but, if it doesn't, they are quite prepared to invade again. My own guess is that strategic bombing alone won't do the job and Iraq

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will launch an offensive. The real question is where and when?

Where and When

While Iraq could attack at any time, weather conditions make July to late September in the south and July to November in the north best. It is likely that Iraq will hold its offensive until at least mid-July when the marshes in the Southern Sector have had a chance to dry up after the spring rains.

That sector, where the Iraqi city of Basra faces the Iranian cities of Khoramshahr and Abadan across the Shatt-al-Arab, has been the area of heaviest fighting since 1982, largely because the Iranians have had "Basra-on-the-brain" for three years.

It is certainly the line of greatest expectation for Iran, and any hint of an Iraqi drive toward Khormashahr and Abadan would be certain to provoke a strong Iranian reaction. If the Iraqis ever want to draw off the maximum Iranian reserves with minimal forces, this is the sector to feint in. A main effort in this area, however, would be unwise, as the Iraqis discovered in 1980-81.

If the Iranians can be tricked into tying up their best units in the Basra area, mobile Iraqi units, jumping off from positions northeast of Al Amarah, could drive on the main Dezful-Ahvaz road, threatening those cities and Susangerd as well. A 65-mile advance would put them on the road itself and isolate Iranian units in Khuzistan south of Dezful from effective supply and reinforcement.

If the Iraqis can achieve the above-mentioned objectives, that alone might lead to the collapse of effective Iranian resistance in Khuzistan Province, an event which would almost certainly knock Iran out of the war.

An Iraqi advance into Iranian Kurdistan would be welcomed and aided by the local population and is worth a limited effort, but rapid advances in this mountainous region are unlikely for Iraq's road-bound forces.

The Poison Gas Card

Given their preparations and the condition of Iran's ground forces, any well-planned Iraqi attack is almost certain of initial success, but, if they bog down, the Iraqis can unleash that controversial weapon: poison gas.

Iraq has been using chemical weapons, largely blister agents, for area denial since at least 1983, but so far they haven't really used them offensively, although they have the ability to do so.

Aside from mustard gas, a persistent irritating agent ideal for area defense, Iraq has reportedly used hydrogen-cyanide (a blood agent) and tabun (a nerve agent), both of which are lethal and non-persistent and thus ideal for offensive operations.

They certainly have the means to deliver these chemicals. There are specially designed chemical munitions for virtually all of Iraq's Soviet-made artillery, surface-to-surface missiles and artillery rockets, and

reliable sources say their recently received T-62s and BMPs can operate in a chemical environment.

Direct Soviet involvement in Iraq's chemical weapons program should not be ruled out. The publisher of a respected West German defense journal said that, given Iraq's reported use of hydrogen-cyanide, tabun and tricothecene mycotoxins, a Soviet connection is "highly probable."

Said a high-ranking Egyptian chemical warfare specialist: "Until now, Iraq has used mainly only the mustard gas. Some say they were also using tabun, but I think this use was very small. But now they are ready to use the [nerve agents] tabun and, I think, soman. Most of these chemicals are very easy to produce, but not nerve gas. I do not think that Iraq is producing the tabun by itself. There are many reasons to believe they are getting it from the Soviet Union."

An Israeli official close to the Prime Minister's Office told this reporter that Israel was "becoming very concerned about the evidence that Iraq is using and producing chemical weapons, but we are even more concerned by the all-out scale of Soviet aid to Iraq."

The U.S. State Department backed that up. "Allegations that Iraq has used mycotoxins, yellow-rain-type stuff, against Iran have not yet been confirmed by the government. Were it confirmed, there would be a strong supposition that the Soviets are mixed up in it," said a knowledgeable State Department source.

If the Iraqis do initiate massive chemical warfare, they have already taken measures to protect their political and military leadership from possible Iranian retaliation.

The respected British weekly, *New Scientist*, reports that "Iraq is building a network of giant underground bunkers around Baghdad to protect top officials from government and the armed forces against nuclear, chemical or biological warfare. The bunkers, called Al-Saad, Al-Yarmook and Al-Badr, are similar in size to Britain's emergency Regional Seats of Government."

Construction began in 1981 and was handled by "an unidentified West German company." The ventilation systems were subcontracted to Artos, another West German firm, and the arrangements were made through Interstar, an Arab-owned firm based in London, *New Scientist* reported.

According to the Egyptian expert, "Iraq is much better prepared for chemical warfare than the Americans." Iranian chemical warfare preparations, on the other hand, are reported to be pitiful despite the two years they have had to get ready.

If the Iraqis invade, with or without massive use of chemical weapons, Iran's pathetic Air Force, demoralized Army, fanatic Pasdaran and hordes of Basidj Mostazafin are not likely to stop them, despite North Korean, Chinese, Libyan and Syrian arms. If anything stops the Iraqis, it will be their own supply difficulties.

The Iraqis can probably win a big enough victory to bring down the Iranian regime

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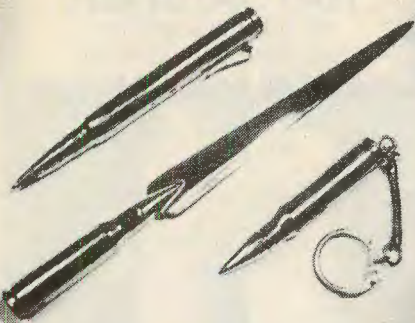
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and force an acceptable peace. Any attempt to retain large chunks of Iranian territory, however, would be a bad mistake.

In the long run, Iraq cannot possibly hope to hold 43 million decently equipped and competently led Iranians at bay. A quick victory is in the Iraqi's best interests. In this particular war, they have been fortunate in fighting against a regime whose ideas on warfare (and most other things) come straight out of the 7th century. That kind of luck should not be pushed for much longer. ✕

IN REVIEW

Continued from page 27

THIS is a masterful treatment of an especially timely topic by one of the world's premier gun writers in the field of automatic pistols. The appeal is universal because Wood covers both history and technology precisely and engagingly. Every model is given its due, starting with the ruggedly simple Model 1915 pistol.

All Beretta pocket pistols in .25 ACP are discussed in detail from the Model 1919 through the current double-action Model 20. Especially intriguing is the chapter on the Model 1934 and Model 1935 (the 7.65mm version) of

WWII fame.

With adoption of the Beretta 92SB-F as the U.S. Armed Forces' new service pistol, interest will focus on Wood's chapters on the 92 series and their predecessor, the Model 951. He sails smartly through every variant: the Models 951, 952, Egyptian Helwan, 92, Brazilian Taurus, 92S, 92S-1, 92SB, 92SBC, 92SB-F and the 93R. Wood stumbles when he states that commercial sales of the 93R machine pistol in the United States will be limited by BATF registration and a \$200 tax payment. Developed and imported after the odious 1968 Gun Control Act, the 93R can be purchased only by law-enforcement agencies and Class 3 dealers who can prove they are actively engaged in police sales and demonstrations. To these few qualified buyers there is no \$200 transfer tax.

Illustrations are first-rate throughout, the text, clear and concise. Wood is an incisive writer. An index and detailed disassembly instructions (especially for the older models) would have been useful. Regardless, it's without doubt the definitive English-language book on Beretta automatic pistols and required reading for what will surely be a new and large generation of Beretta pistol collectors who are now provided with the proper pigeon holes.

THE BRITISH SERVICE LEE — The Lee-Netford and Lee-Enfield Rifles and Carbines 1880-1980. By Ian D. Skennerton. 1982. 410 pp. 600 black-and-white photos and illustrations.

THE BRITISH SNIPER — British & Commonwealth Sniping & Equipments 1915-1983. By Ian D. Skennerton. 1983. 266 pp. 375 black-and-white photos and illustrations. U.S. distributor: IDSA Books, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 185, Hamilton, OH 45012. \$34.00 each, postpaid.

STILL in combat after more than a century, the Lee Rifle, or the "Enfield" to most Americans, serves with the British Army in Ireland as the L42A1 sniper rifle in 7.62mm NATO. No other bolt-action series has seen longer service. Its hallmark has been reliability under the most adverse conditions. Although many thousands were imported by Interarms prior to the 1968 Gun Control Act, detailed knowledge remained scanty and few in the U.S. can distinguish between an SMLE Mk I and a No. 4 Mk I.

Skennerton's two volumes are bound to fill the void and pique interest in collecting this fine rifle. Tedious lists of parts commonality may not help the collector, but Skennerton is a zealous chronicler who insists on telling all. The

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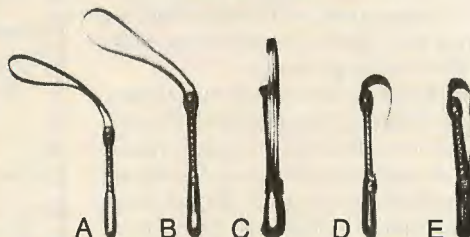
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first volume covers development of the Magazine Lee-Netford and Lee-Enfield, SMLE Rifles Nos. 4 & 5, small-bore trainers, Australian, Indian and North American production, grenades, wirecutters and bayonets. The most useful chapter is the 100 pages of illustrated technical details of every variant from the first trial rifles to the Charlton automatic-rifle conversions.

The British Sniper traces sniping from its origin as a military discipline during the American Civil War to WWII. Australian, Canadian, Indian and South African influences on British sniping techniques and equipment are also examined. Once more, a 42-page illustrated discussion of early WWI variants up to the current L42A1 is most informative.

Both volumes must be faulted in graphics. Printed on dull paper, the photographs range from acceptable to dreadful. Interesting historical scenes suffer from a dreary-gray monotony that may serve to evoke the muddy trenches of WWI France, but do little to inform the reader. Nevertheless, the importance and painstaking detail of the text forces me into a high recommendation of Skennerton's efforts.

MILITARY RIFLES OF JAPAN. By Fred L. Honeycutt Jr. and F. Patt Anthony. Second edition. Julin Books, Dept. SOF, 5282 Ridan Way, Lake Park, FL 33410. 1983. 206 pp. Black-and-white photos and illustrations. \$29 postpaid.

WORLD War II Japanese rifles represent an area of collecting still open to those without an American Express Gold Card. While Nazi collectors drive the value of German WWII militaria spiraling upward, Japanese militaria has experienced a modest but steady appreciation. But as prices of the more uncommon Japanese rifles move toward megabucks, *caveat emptor* is still good advice.

West Coast counterfeiters have assembled phony Type 97 and 99 sniper rifles for seven or eight years now. The 16-petaled imperial chrysanthemum, supposedly removed from receivers by order of General Douglas MacArthur, is being restamped by gutter slime without regard for its effect on the receiver's strength. Honeycutt's revision of the earlier volume has arrived just in time to inform those stepping into the labyrinth as well as more seasoned travelers.

The format of the book has been doubled in size and the photographs enlarged so that the markings are more clearly visible. The scope has been expanded considerably to include rifles of the Murata Pattern (1880-1889) and numerous variations unknown at

the original printing. The text's progression is chronological and precise. Rifles covered include all known variations of the Types 30, 35, 38 (rifles and carbines), 44 Carbine, 99, sniper and paratroop rifles and experimental semiautomatic rifles. Special sections discuss the Japanese use of foreign rifles in WWII, export contracts and foreign copies, the so-called "Last Ditch" and training rifles. The portion on accessories analyzes and illustrates grenade launchers, muzzle covers, monopods, dustcovers, slings, cleaning equipment, ammunition and bayonets.

The bibliography cites references mostly unavailable to the reader and there is no index. But overall **Military Rifles of Japan** is most interesting and informative with photographs of excellent clarity. It's the result of more than 30 years of collecting and research. Highly recommended.

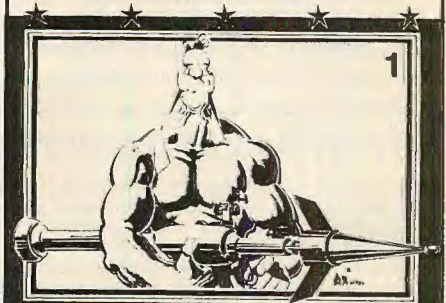
SMALL ARMS TODAY — Latest Reports on the World's Weapons and Ammunition. By Edward Clinton Ezell, Ph.D. Stackpole Books, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105. 1984. 256 pp. Black-and-white photos. \$16.95.

TECHNICAL intelligence analysts and the idly curious will find a great deal to interest them in Ezell's latest endeavor.

Country by country from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe 150 charts list the small arms (handguns, submachine guns, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, automatic cannons and grenade launchers) in inventory by caliber and nomenclature with remarks concerning their status (standard issue, reserve, obsolete, etc.) and origin. The systems of NATO Stock Numbers (NSN) and Foreign Materiel numbers (FOM) are explained and used wherever applicable. An interesting collection of photographs from scenic areas like Grenada, El Salvador, Lebanon, the Falkland Islands and the steppes of Russia has been included. An excellent chapter on small-arms ammunition since 1939 was written with the assistance of the well-known British authority, Peter Labbett. Revised editions of this valuable source-book will be published at least every two years.

MODERN MILITARY BULLPUP RIFLES, The EM-2 Concept Comes of Age. By Thomas B. Dugelby. Collector Grade Publications, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 250, Station 'E,' Toronto, M6H 4E2, Canada. 1984. 104 pp. 100 black-and-white illustrations. \$19.95.

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WITH a startling rush, military bullpup rifles have arrived. Like it or not, they may represent the future form of the infantry rifle. Left-handed grumbling aside, the bullpup concept provides a compact and inviting envelope that has finally proved compelling to small-arms designers. Dugelby's book thus assumes a quality of importance beyond that of another passing fancy.

This chronicle commences with the ingenious and thought-provoking German WWII FG-42 (Fallschirmjäger Gewehr, 1942) and the Swiss Waffen-

fabrik Berne Short Rifle. Although not bullpups, each possessed innovations that influenced later bullpup designs. A brief history of the ill-fated British EM-2 bullpup (covered in detail in Dugelby's *The EM-2 Concept and Design — A Rifle Ahead of Its Time*) follows. Selected use of British government material provides some fascinating insights into Enfield's quest for a new infantry small-arms system.

Dugelby treats us to the gamut of current bullpup military rifles: the Enfield IW, the grotesque French FA MAS, the amazing Heckler & Koch G11 which fires 4.7mm caseless

ammunition, the clever Steyr AUG system, the monstrous Walther WA 2000 Sniper Rifle, the unusual Colt "Imp" (later marketed by the Gwinn Arms Company as the "Bushmaster") and the Finnish Valmet M82.

The bullpup concept can no longer be ignored by weapons technologists. Tom Dugelby's book is a fine introduction to this important new arena of the military rifle. It's entertaining, informative and at times amusing. I heartily endorse **Modern Military Bullpup Rifles** for all those with a serious interest in military small arms. ✕

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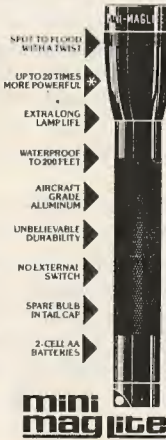
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 14

position. I gave an unorthodox but effective fire-command order: "Fire at the shit-head shooting all that god-damn tracer." He didn't have time for a fourth burst. When the battle was over, we made a point of finding our pyrotechnic terrorist. He looked like 150 pounds of African Swiss cheese. By the third burst, every man in my command had known where he was.

Well, if tracer's a good thing but all tracer is too much, what's the right amount of tracer? Like everything else in combat, the proportion of tracer to ball depends on weapons and combat conditions.

Generally, MG belts should be loaded with one tracer cartridge in every four rounds. In a short burst, you'd see one trace. For longer bursts you'll see two or three. Tracer loaded that way also helps you time your bursts. For a short burst, let off the trigger as soon as you see the light.

Mini-guns' rates of fire are so high that one tracer in ten rounds is plenty. You'll see streams of deadly fireflies guiding your sights to the target.

Box-magazine machine guns should also be loaded one in four — like their belt-fed brothers — because their fire missions are similar to belt-fed guns. The difference between the two is usually portability. Box-fed guns are usually a lot lighter, but that shouldn't change fire control or sighting in a fire-fight. Some things never change.

Yet I do use and recommend a special load for the standard 30-round box magazine. Loading backward — of course, since that's the way magazines get stuffed — 30, 29 and 28 are tracer so you can see when you're running out of gas. Counting down, load straight ball till you get to round 15, and that should be tracer . . . so you can see when you've used half that box. Then load ball till you get to 3, 2 and 1. They should be tracer so you

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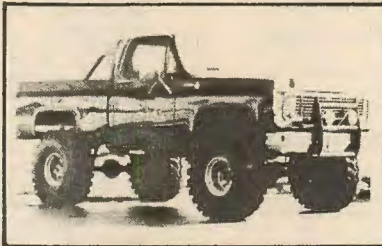
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B24s OVER BERLIN

Continued from page 77

The sight that greeted me was straight out of Dante's *Inferno*. Smoking, burning and crippled Libs dotted the sky in every direction. Scores of parachutes were scattered about, most likely to come down in the frigid water where the survival of flyers would be measured in minutes. Were it not for the hundred or so Mustangs buzzing around us, the Luftwaffe would have had a field day.

I quickly found and tagged on to a loose formation of three crippled Libs from my group and we started a shallow dive toward home. This enabled us to fly at good speed, despite our battered condition. Mercifully, the weather report from our base sounded good. Clouds had lifted and visibility was over a mile. Thank God! I could not have managed an instrument landing.

Flying in a zombie-like daze, I somehow made a good landing and taxied to our hardstand. My co-pilot cut the switches and we slumped down in our seats, too exhausted to get to our feet. After what seemed an eternity, Al struggled out of his seat and helped me out of the plane. We joined the rest of our crew, who had been waiting outside the plane, and trudged to the truck that would take us to de-briefing.

Upon arrival, I was quickly handed two double-shots of whiskey. Gripping each one with both hands, I brought them to my lips, praying that my trembling hands would not spill the precious, life-renewing fluid.

• Debriefing over, Al and I wordlessly walked the quarter-mile to our hut. Thankfully, we found it deserted, for the moment, and collapsed on our bunks. There we would rest, but certainly not sleep, until dinner time. The war would go on ... Tomorrow would be another day. ✕

BATTLE BLADES

Continued from page 20

hold a little piece of the 747 in their hands. The aura of jet-age technology sold a lot of people a lot of fragile knives that were hard to sharpen. And a number of custom knifemakers laughed all the way to the bank. They really capitalized on such symbolism, and with the unwitting aid of knife journalists who first bought this party line and then spread it in the contemporary

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rean aid. Rhodesia's problems weren't solved by reverting to tribal tyranny, and communist-supervised genocide won't purge bigotry from South Africa.

Sanctimonious arrogance compels some Americans to demand an immediate solution to South Africa's race problems. Perhaps they would be more understanding if they remembered the time it took for America to march from emancipation in the 1860s to the civil rights guarantees in the 1960s. What makes liberal critics believe South Africa can solve its more complicated problem by governmental decree?

Violence in South Africa may torture the Western conscience. But if communist-orchestrated blockades and communist-supplied terrorists succeed in toppling the South African government, the Indian Ocean will be that much closer to becoming a Soviet lake. Our only friends will be Australia and Pakistan. Australia is considering barring nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships from their ports, and Pakistan is being strangled by means of the same disinformation strategy now bearing fruit in South Africa.

If the South African government falls, life will be measurably worse

for the area's black population. And our failure to support South Africa compromises the security of the few struggling democracies bordering the Indian Ocean. As bad as race relations are in South Africa, its internal political problems are insufficient justification for us to jeopardize the security of the Free World. ✕

FLAK

Continued from page 11

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary Issue. It might be a bit late, but unfortunately we only recently had the pleasure of receiving SOF here in Amsterdam. My friends and I are very active SOF readers and we hope you will continue to supply us with information that has always been on a high standard — data one normally does not read in the newspapers.

Rob de Ruyter
Leslie Gemin
Marcel van de Berg
Amsterdam

I want to express my gratitude for the great public service that you perform. I admire your journalistic standards for their direct honesty, firsthand content, and (as a student and conflict simulation designer) outstanding academic value. There is no substitute for *Soldier of Fortune*.

A group of us have been writing letters to the local newspaper in an effort to inform the people of our Congressional district about what's going on in Central America. We've changed some minds and given our leftist Congressman, Rep. Wolpe, a hard time. Wolpe sought to defame the freedom fighters on the floor of the house. I talked to him before the April vote and he's incorrigible.

James McQuaid
Lansing, Michigan ✕

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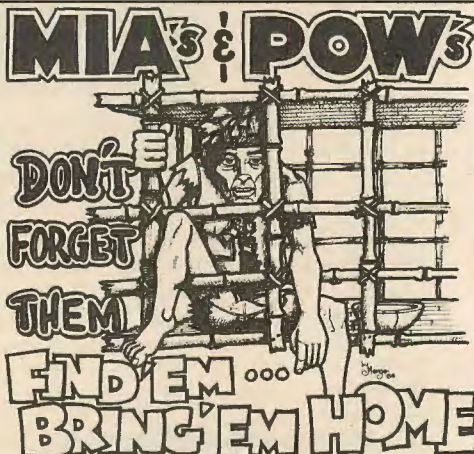
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KARENS BUST HEROIN PLANT...

While the United States aids the
 Marxist government in Burma, the
 Burmese still wage their campaign
 against anti-communist Karen Freedom
 Fighters. Despite Burmese pressure, the
 Karens recently allied with soldiers of
 the Wa tribe to attack and destroy a
 heroin factory operated by Khun Sa, a
 leading figure in the Golden Triangle
 drug trade. Karen General Bo Mya —
 who also serves as President of the
 Karen separatist state of Kawthoolei —
 delivered almost two tons of seized
 materials to authorities in nearby
 Thailand.

But the tide continues to flow against
 the Karens. A Karen spokesman
 confirmed reports of increased Burmese
 military strikes. He said looting, torture,
 rape and execution of Karen tribesmen
 is on the rise, as well as the wanton
 destruction of property and crops.
 Concentration camps have been built
 and hundreds of Karens have been sent
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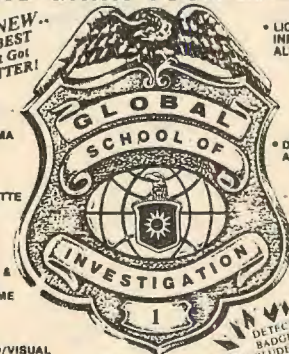
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
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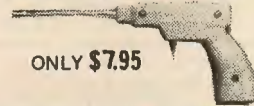
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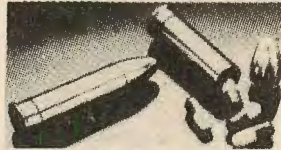
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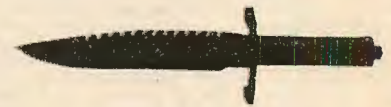
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FULL AUTO

Continued from page 19

onto the ground. Withdraw the guide plate and the recoil and firing-pin springs. Retract the bolt to the rear and remove the cocking handle from the right side of the receiver. Pull the bolt to the rear and out of the receiver. The firing pin will slide out the rear. The extractor can be removed in the usual manner by pulling it up and to the left. The top cover can be removed by unscrewing its hinge pin on the right side. The trigger mechanism can be removed by unscrewing the five Allen-head bolts on each side of the bottom plate. These latter two components are not normally removed for routine maintenance. Re-assemble in the reverse order. Be certain you compress the two springs into their holes in the bolt before you move the bolt forward in the receiver. The firing-pin spring is easily deformed and it should be compressed on its guide rod before re-installing.

Half-loading can be accomplished with the top cover open or closed. As with the original Browning the cocking handle will then have to be stroked twice for full loading. With the top cover open, I prefer to place the first round directly under the extractor. Close the top cover. Move the safety lever protruding from a slot in the back plate to the right — to the 'S' position. One pull on the cocking handle will then load the gun. This is a little more difficult to accomplish with the Tippmann since its extractor will pivot upward only a short distance. Move the safety lever to the left — to 'F' — when you want to fire.

At 750 rpm, the Tippmann's cyclic rate is about 200 rpm higher than the original Browning M1919A4. As long as you stick to the recommended Remington high-velocity ammunition and position the rounds correctly in the belts, the M1919A4 will chatter away.

Until it fouls, that is. Tippmann's system provides only marginal operating energy in .22 LR, and 500 rounds are the usual limit before stoppages become frequent enough to require a few moments of downtime to clean and lubricate the bolt group.

A detailed discussion of accuracy potential and hit probability would be inappropriate and ridiculous. Let it suffice to say that it's more than acceptable for the intended purpose.

For further information on these fascinating little firearms contact Tippmann Arms Co. (Dept. SOF, 4402 New Haven Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803). Just remember: the only difference between the men and the boys is the price of their toys. My son and I argue constantly about who will load, belts and who will fire the Tippmann M1919A4. I usually lose. ✕

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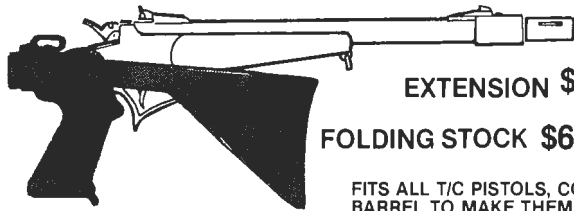
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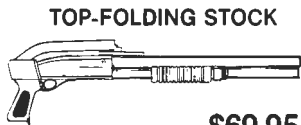


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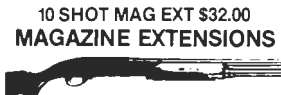
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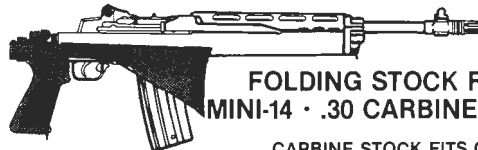
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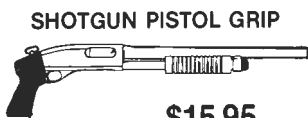
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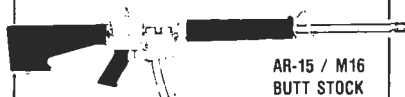
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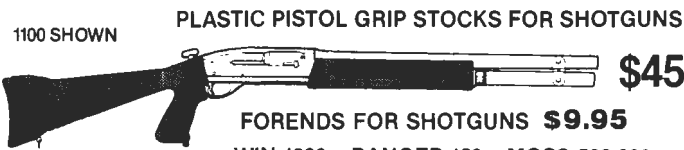
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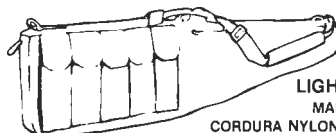
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